

THE JOURNAL

Friday, August 8, 2003

50 cents (tax included)

Arts Ramblin' Jack ambles into the Freight [C10]**Sports** 77-year-old runner inducted into the Dipsea Hall of Fame [C1]

Budget punches vary in severity

Contra Costa District Attorney's Office said that state cuts, 50 cases may not be prosecuted

By Peter Felsenfeld

TIMES STAFF WRITER

As the dust settles from the budget brawl, some Contra Costa department heads are reeling from newly created deficits waiting to come into focus.

Others are relieved the news in Sacramento isn't as bad as they thought.

"Overall, I'd have to say I was pleased," County Administrator Tim Sweeten told supervisors yesterday. "Historically, one would suspect we would be hit much harder."

Though not a knock-out blow, the punch from the state spending plan will be felt: Fewer mentally ill adults will receive shelter and temporary housing, some notorious criminals will not be prosecuted and county employees will lose their jobs.

The budget signed Saturday by Gov. Gray Davis slams Contra Costa's general fund with a \$3 million shortfall, mostly from vehicle license fee revenue. In addition, several departments will be burdened with further cuts to their programs.

To solve the general fund dilemma, Sweeten has directed county department heads to cut costs by 6 percent. This comes on top of 10 percent across-the-board reductions supervisors have already authorized this year to bridge a \$54.5 million shortfall.

Supervisors are expected to propose the next round of belt-tightening measures, likely during layoffs, in September. Vacant positions have been

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THIS BUILDING at San Pablo and Portland avenues provides new housing, but some say it's too tall, and others worry about more affordable housing in the community.

TUE NAM TON/STAFF

Buildings draw mixed reviews

■ New housing is praised, but height and lack of 'affordable' units earn criticism for buildings on San Pablo Avenue

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Two buildings on San Pablo Avenue are giving the city new housing but creating a stir because of their height.

The buildings stand three and

four stories tall — something new for the city's one-mile stretch of San Pablo Avenue. All of the businesses there appear to stand no higher than two stories.

The new buildings — one at Portland Avenue, the other near Solano Avenue — are giving the city a total of 33 new housing units. The Portland building, dubbed "Portland Gardens," has been renting out its 12 two- and three-bedroom apartments for about three months. Just one unit, with three bedrooms remains open. Located three doors

south of Solano Avenue, the building will offer 21 residential condominiums when finished.

Both buildings also add commercial space to the avenue. The Portland building has 2,545 square feet of commercial space; the Solano Avenue building brings 7,100 square feet.

"Basically I think it's a great idea, to infill but always with mixed uses, to have commercial on the bottom and the rest of development up above," said Councilwoman Peggy Thomsen.

Some residents of the area

around the 1100 Portland Avenue complex said they were unaffected by its size.

"Housing in the Bay Area has to get more dense," said Karen, who didn't want to give her last name. "There's more jobs in the area coming in, then housing getting built. It's good to have high-density housing next to public transit."

That's the idea behind the city's "vision plan" for San Pablo Avenue, drafted in 1997, which says the city should encourage larger buildings on San Pablo Av-

enue in order to promote development close to public transit.

The plan states: "To create these densities (required for transit-oriented development), buildings should be a minimum of two stories tall; three stories are preferred."

Thomsen said she was unhappy with the height of the four-story building at Solano Avenue because it overpowered the street, particularly when approached from the east on

See BUILDINGS, Page A10

Elvis' safety program has left the building

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — After 35 years of work, former police Lt. Bill Palmini has retired, and a promotion in which he dressed up as Presley and sang songs about traffic safety is retiring him.

A three-year state grant that yielded \$1.1 million for the Operator Program will run out of money Aug. 31 and is not being reapplied for.

Under the program, Palmini performed in a sequined jumpsuit as the Las Vegas-era Presley

states and Canada, singing traffic safety songs geared to teen audience. The centerpiece was a contest in which teenagers could write their own traffic safety songs and have them professionally recorded.

Councilman Robert Good said loss of the nationally recognized program was unfortunate.

Retiring Lt. Larry Murdo, the city's last chief to be appointed, rather than an elected police chief.

Previous chief Larry Murdo, the city's last chief to be appointed, rather than an elected police chief.

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voted to change the position to one appointed by the city administrator.

Murdo sponsored the Chief Operator Program and sometimes played bass for the performances.

There's nothing wrong with current Police Chief Greg Bone, Good said.

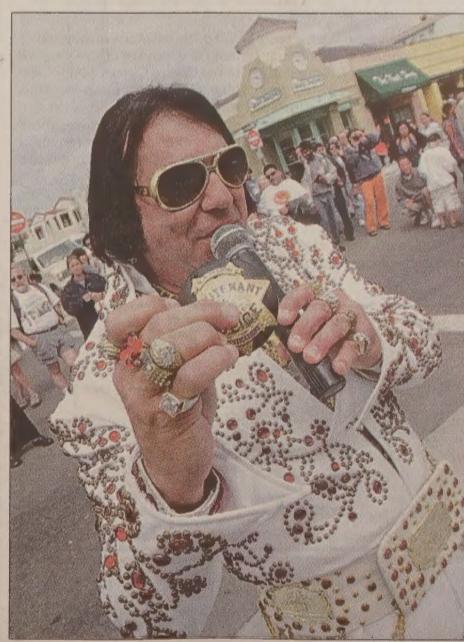
But "I suspect Murdo had more imagination," he added. "I suspect Murdo would have been more innovative and original. I suspect Greg Bone was selected because he gets along with administrative arm, namely the city administrator."

Bone acknowledged the Chief Operator was successful, but said its downside was that it focused on other cities and states.

"The fundamental bottom line is we're paid to protect the citizens of Albany," he said.

The grant ending this month also provided a little more than \$175,000 for the city of Albany over three years, including \$81,482 for the city's general fund — to pay for administrative staff.

See PALMINI, Page A10



HE AIN'T NOTHIN' but a police dog, but an entertaining police dog. Retiring Albany police Lt. Bill Palmini traded blue uniform for sequined jumpsuit when he entertained at the Solano Stroll in 2001.

Raffle, music to lure shoppers to Albany

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Because it's the dead of summer when fewer people are out shopping, the Albany Chamber of Commerce is organizing "Summer Days and Nights in Albany" to lure Saturday shoppers from across the region to Solano and San Pablo avenues.

As of earlier this week, about 40 businesses had committed to the Aug. 16 and Aug. 23 events, which will include entertainment on Solano Avenue, themed events at individual businesses, a raffle giving away nearly 30 prizes and food and merchandise

discounts and freebies at Albany businesses.

The specials will run 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day.

The idea is to draw locals and people from other cities to downtown while business is light, said chamber director James Carter.

The eclectic entertainment will include students from the Albany High School Jazz Band, live 1970s music and a balloon-animal maker.

Some restaurants will present themes, such as the 1960s, or will have entertainment — musicians and dancers — inside.

See ALBANY, Page A10

To our readers

Today you'll find something new on the back page of section C: The new front page of the Arts & Leisure section.

You'll find the same columnists... Jack Tucker on community theater and Bill Mann on all media, great features — now in color — on shows and exhibits, movie listings and short reviews.

We hope you like this more colorful, easier-to-find Arts & Leisure section. It's part of our continuing effort to better serve you.

Libraries

■ Columnist's experience shows her a different side of life in the jails. Page A5

Neighbors

■ Transportation group's program gives interns valuable experience. Page A3



Martin Snapp

■ What happened at the most important dinner party in Berkeley history. Page A3

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NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Residents encouraged to volunteer

Adults looking for rewarding experiences may want to volunteer their time by helping at the Albany Senior Center, Childcare Center, Community Center or at City Hall. For more information about volunteering, call 510-559-7225.

Parks and rec commission seat open

Residents are encouraged to apply for a vacancy on the city's park and recreation commission. The position, appointed by the Albany School Board, is effective immediately through June 30, 2004.

A letter of interest form must be submitted to the Board of Education, Albany Unified School District, 904 Talbot Avenue, Albany, 94706, no later than today. Forms can be obtained from that office. Call 510-558-3750 ext. 7.

Poetry workshops offered at YMCA

Workshops for high school students interested in poetry on the page and in performance will be held Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Aug. 11 through Aug. 22 at the Albany YMCA, 921 Kains Avenue.

This workshop will include exploration of literary devices such as rhythm, metaphor and the power of voice. The workshops will culminate with a spoken word performance.

The cost is \$60. For more information, call 510-525-1130.

Albany-Berkeley

Applications available for Solano Stroll

Applications are available for nonprofit organization or commercial booth spaces, the parade and some arts and crafts space for the Solano Avenue Stroll. The stroll will be held in Berkeley and Albany Sunday, Sept. 14, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Applications can be obtained online at www.solanostrroll.org or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Solano Stroll, 1563 Solano Ave. PMB #101, Berkeley, CA 94707. People should specify which type of application they want.

El Cerrito

View ordinance talk open to public

The El Cerrito Tree Commission will conduct a public workshop to discuss the city's view-preservation ordinance Thursday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m., at the community center, 7007 Moeser Lane.

The tree commission will look at how to restructure the city's view ordinance so the city can end its role in deciding disputes between tree-owners and neighbors who say the trees block scenic views. The commission will also discuss which tree species should be allowed to be planted under the ordinance. For more information, call 510-215-4382.

School construction meeting set

El Cerrito High School will hold another community meeting to discuss construction of the new high school on Monday, Aug. 18, in the Little Theatre from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call 510-525-0234. El Cerrito High School is located at 540 Ashbury Ave.

New recycling program to begin

The city will roll out its new curbside recycling program Aug. 25-29, when two new larger bins will be delivered to single-family homes and apartment buildings with four units or less.

One bin will be used for all glass jars, steel and aluminum cans and plastic bottles. The other will be for all mixed paper, including newspapers and bundled cardboard.

The city will also begin accepting narrow-necked plastic bottles, No. 1 through No. 7, in all colors. The old green recycle buckets can be kept or brought to the recycling center at 7501 Schmidt Lane.

The new program will be introduced during a recycling information meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11, in the City Council chambers in the community center, 7007 Moeser Lane. For more information, call 510-215-4350.

Farmers market relocates to parking lot

The farmers market has moved to the parking area behind Albertsons, on the southeast end of the El Cerrito Plaza shopping center, while the plaza undergoes renovations.

The market will remain there through the fall while construction along Cerrito Creek on the south end of the plaza and the installation of Copeland's sporting goods store are completed.

The market is held Tuesdays and Thursdays and is planned to be moved back to its original location on the southwest end of the plaza, near the Macaroni Grill restaurant once construction is complete.

Anti-violence council member sought

Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia is seeking a qualified, motivated candidate to join the county's Advisory Council Against Domestic Violence (ACAD).

The primary purpose of the ACAD is to reduce and prevent domestic violence, family violence and elder abuse in Contra Costa County. The council makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Successful candidates must live in District 1, which encompasses the communities of Richmond, San Pablo, El Cerrito and surrounding unincorporated areas.

Knowledge or background in domestic/family violence prevention or education is desirable. People with backgrounds in health, the faith community, social work, education, or law are encouraged to apply. The council meets once every four months, with subcommittee meetings monthly or bimonthly.

An application form may be obtained from the clerk of the Board of Supervisors by calling 925-335-1900 or on the Web at www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/maddybook/commappplatform.pdf.

High school seeks help with registration

El Cerrito High School is asking for parent volunteers to work registration days, Aug. 18-21 from 1 to 5 p.m. The school needs about six to eight volunteers each day.

Information: Diane Sericati at school 510-525-0234 ext. 2612.

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EL CERRITO POLICE

Thursday, July 17

■ **DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE** — An 18-year-old man was arrested at 8:32 p.m. on suspicion of driving under the influence after colliding with a vehicle at Liberty Street and Eureka Avenue and injuring a passenger.

Monday, July 21

■ **BATTERY** — A man on the 1300 block of Brewster Drive was arrested on suspicion of battering his wife at 9:30 p.m.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 26-year-old Richmond man was arrested on suspicion of stealing a 1992 Honda Accord at 9:40 a.m., that police recovered at Blake and Elm streets. Police staked out the vehicle and arrested the man after he entered and then exited the vehicle. The man quickly began to walk away but was stopped by police. The man said he only entered the car to retrieve a cell phone charger for someone else, according to a report.

Thursday, July 24

■ **ROBBERY** — A man was robbed at gunpoint of \$150 in cash while walking to work at Willow Avenue and Liberty Street at 6:25 a.m. The victim gave up his wallet, which also held his

■ **ATTEMPTED BURGLARY** — The lock of a storage locker behind Walgreens was cut between 5 p.m. on July 25 and 9:20 a.m. the next day, though an attempt to open the locker was unsuccessful.

■ **BURGLARY** — A computer, cell phone, backpack and some business documents were taken from an unlocked business at El Cerrito Plaza between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A gray 1989 Toyota Camry was taken from the Target parking lot between 7:25 and 8:20 p.m.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A green 1994 Jeep Cherokee was taken from the 11700 block of San Pablo Avenue between midnight and 8 p.m.

■ **ROBBERY** — A woman walking on the Ohlone Greenway was robbed of her purse near Moeser Lane at 1:05 p.m. A man walked up behind the woman, grabbed her purse and ran west toward San Pablo Avenue.

■ **ALBANY POLICE**

Tuesday, July 29

■ **TRESPASSING** — At about 1:30 a.m. officers responded to a building near Solano and Ramona Avenues on reports of two subjects in the construction area. Officers arrested a 16-year-old Albany boy and a 15-year-old Benicia boy and released them.

■ **ALTERATION** — At about 8 p.m. officers responded to a restaurant on the 600 block of San Pablo Avenue on reports of a physical altercation between a mother and daughter. Upon investigation, they arrested the 15-year-old Richmond girl for an outstanding Contra Costa warrant for theft and transported her to the Martinez Juvenile Hall.

Wednesday, July 30

■ **THEFT** — During the night thieves cut the tie-downs and removed a ladder from a vehicle on the 800 block of Hillside Street. There were no witnesses.

■ **THEFT** — Unknown thieves broke into a gray 1988 Dodge pickup parked on the 900 block of Evelyn Avenue.

■ **RESTRAINING ORDER** — At about 5:30 p.m. officers received a call from a man stating that he had a restraining order against a woman and that she was standing outside his apartment complex. Officers arrested the 39-year-old Albany woman for violating a restraining order and transported her to Santa Rita Jail.

■ **ACCIDENT** — Shortly before midnight officers responded to a traffic accident near San Pablo and Marin Avenues. They arrested a 21-year-old Richmond man when he lied to officers about his name and date of birth. He was cited and released.

■ **CAR STOLEN** — A resident on the 900 block of Cerrito Street reported that during the night thieves had stolen the stereo out of a 1992 Honda Accord. There were no witnesses.

Friday, Aug. 1

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — At about 12:30 a.m. officers responded to

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — At about 11:30 a.m. officers stopped a gray Chevrolet van near the Buchanan Street Interchange for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 33-year-old San Leandro man, was found to have an outstanding warrant for driving with a suspended license. He was cited and released.

■ **YARD WORK SCAM** — A resident on the 700 block of Madison Street reported that a man knocked on her door and asked to do yard work.

■ **CAR STOLEN** — A Walnut Creek woman reported that thieves had stolen her olive-colored Toyota Sienna van while it was parked on the 900 block of Peralta Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ **ANOTHER CAR STOLEN** — During the night thieves stole a blue and green 1994 Honda Civic parked on the 1200 block of Brighton Avenue. There were no witnesses.

■ **YARD WORK SCAM** — A resident on the 700 block of Madison Street reported that a man knocked on her door and asked to do yard work.

■ **DECEASED ANIMALS** — Officers attended to five deceased animals, assisted people who were locked out of their homes and responded to two reports of loose dogs in the domestic areas.

■ **OBSTRUCTION** — A resident on the 100 block of Adams Street reported that a man was obstructing a police officer while he was recording a conversation illegal.

■ **NO DRIVER'S LICENSE** — Officers stopped a brown 1987 Volkswagen on the 500 block of Pierce Street for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the 30-year-old Richmond man for driving without a license, possession of a controlled substance and having an outstanding Oakland warrant for driving without a license and for an outstanding Berkeley warrant. He was cited and released.

■ **CAR STOLEN** — Unknown thieves stole a black 1995 Acura from the 800 block of Pomona Avenue.

■ **CAR STOLEN** — Thieves stole a white 1987 Ford Econoline van belonging to a Berkeley woman while it was parked on the 1000 block of Eastshore Highway. There were no witnesses.

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GREGORY UQUIAGA/STAFF

Night out

YOU NEVER KNOW what you'll see at National Night Out, in El Cerrito. You might see, as Jane Waters and John Congdon did, a sheep-riding dog. That would be Crystal, the poodle-chihuahua mix, above left, atop Appy the very patient-looking sheep — out for a stroll and to be petted. Or you might get to try your skill with rings and pegs, as Alfredo Ruiz, 8, is doing here, above right, at the El Cerrito Royale retirement home. National Night Out is an annual event to improve public safety by encouraging people to come out and meet their neighbors.

Neighbors

Internships give teens real-world experience

EL CERRITO — Summer jobs or teenagers typically mean flipping cappuccinos at the corner Starbucks or selling tube socks at the store down the block. But thanks to a traffic planning and financing agency, about teenagers throughout the Bay Area have been doing something a little different this summer — interning at city planning departments. The idea is to give the teens an appreciation for the intricacies and processes in managing traffic and public transit. This gives them an opportunity to actually work in an office not exposed to a professional environment — much more real world," said Ann Macaulay, the urban resources director for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the organization that's sponsoring the program. Funded by the state and federal government and local agencies, the MTC is a transportation planning agency for nine Bay Area counties.

El Cerrito High School graduate Farhad Farahmand, 17, has been interning in the El Cerrito public maintenance department this summer and said the experience jives with his planned major he enters UC Berkeley next year — mechanical engineering. He does various office jobs, it has also gone out in the field assignments, including measuring the red curb on certain streets, in order for the city to retain them the proper length after they're resurfaced.

In Albany, 18-year-old intern Harumi, a recent Albany High School graduate, does data entry and has helped count cars Buchanan Street for the city's community development department to see what kind of traffic there is during certain hours. Now in its fourth year, the internship is geared toward minorities between the ages of 17 and 18. About 40 interns, who have grade point averages at least 2.8, are placed in different cities throughout the Bay Area.

Macaulay said the internships are an opportunity to be exposed to transportation issues, and learn about the type of careers available within that field, including governmental, engineering and public relations.

"The hope is not that students come out engineers, but that they become more thoughtful of the processes, specific to transportation," Macaulay said.

She added: "It also gives them exposure to what's going on in their communities and hopefully gives them a chance to get involved or interested."

For Harumi, who plans to attend Santa Monica College next year, this is the second consecutive summer he's interned for Albany through the MTC program. He's worked at restaurants in Albany and Kensington, and this is the best summer job he's had, because it's more professional and pays better.

"It seemed like an interesting thing to do in the summer as opposed to getting a job at Safeway or something," he said. "And it was work I needed and I figured it would give me some insight into a further career if I chose too. And it was near my house too."

Working within the El Cerrito engineering, planning and public works departments, Farhad said appreciates the process of getting something built in the city.

He's also picked up more obscure planning details. When a friend was moving a water heater, he noticed that a city permit was needed for the job.

"I wouldn't have cared otherwise," Farhad said, referring to a lesson learned from his summer job. "I wouldn't have known about it."

— Alan Lopez

■ ■ ■

No, it's not another Harry Potter book. The "Order of the Yellow Jersey" refers to the yellow jersey champion cyclist Lance Armstrong wears as a member of the U.S. Postal Service Pro Cycling Team.

And it's a reason for El Cerrito Postmaster Jack Boster to be beaming these days. The yellow jersey also is a symbol of the Oakland district postal employees' achievement in delivering high customer service for the period from Feb. 22 to May 16.

The El Cerrito Post Office is in that district, which is why the U.S. Postal Service Pro Cycling Team "Order of the Yellow Jersey" flag went up Wednesday, July 30, in El Cerrito.

"There is great satisfaction in



FARHAD FARAHMAND, 17, interned with the public works department. He will start UC Berkeley's mechanical engineering program this fall.



POSTAL EMPLOYEES raised the U.S. Post Office Pro Cycling Team on July 30. The honor marks outstanding service in the Oakland district.

being part of a world-class team that pushes the envelope on customer service," Boster said.

■ ■ ■

Vena Flint has been named the El Cerrito Lions Club 2003 "Lion of the Year."

A Realtor, community activist and member of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce, Flint said she was "proud to be the first woman in the 75-year history of such an outstanding service organization to be singled out for this honor."

Flint, whose husband is Chamber President Dean Flint, has been a member of the local Lions for 15 years. She has been membership chairman, helped raise

money for the Lions blind Centers in Oakland and Diablo Valley and collected used eyeglasses for distribution to the poor overseas, among other good works.

Flint also is a member of the Kensington Republican Women, the El Cerrito Garden Club and Soroptimist International of El Cerrito.

The Neighbors column is looking for your items and/or photos about people who live in El Cerrito, Albany and Kensington. Scholars, servicemen and women, community contributions — we're interested in them all. Send information to the Journal at journal.cctimes.com or mail: Neighbors/The Journal, 4301 Lakeside Dr., Richmond, CA 94806. Fax: 510-243-3574.

Berkeley history made over dinner

TODAY IS the 100th anniversary of the most important dinner party in Berkeley history. It took place at the home of UC Berkeley geology professor Joseph LeConte, an avid naturalist and mountain climber who was one of the founders of the Sierra Club.

It was at this party that Joseph Mason met Duncan McDuffie. Mason was LeConte's insurance broker, and McDuffie was LeConte's favorite student. And they couldn't have been more different.

Mason was 59 years old. A self-made man, he came to this country from his native England in 1869 without a dime in his pocket. After working for almost 20 years on the San Francisco docks as a longshoreman, he borrowed \$600 and parlayed it into a successful insurance and real estate brokerage in Berkeley.

McDuffie was only 26. In contrast to the rough-hewn Mason, he came from an upper-middle-class family and enjoyed a first-rate formal education at UC Berkeley, class of 1898.

And yet they hit off from the very beginning. By the time the dinner was over, Mason agreed to take on a partner for the first time in his life. It was the beginning of a friendship that literally changed the face of the city. If Bernard Maybeck and Julia Morgan created the Berkeley aesthetic, it was Mason and McDuffie who made it a reality.

McDuffie talked Mason into investing in the state-of-the-art technology at the time: four Model T Fords. The younger man hired some of his Cal

classmates as drivers and had them pick up ferry passengers from San Francisco at what is now Jack London Square and chauffeur them to Berkeley for free.

Once in Berkeley, he'd drive them up into the hills for a look at what he called "the best view of San Francisco Bay" and sell them land.

Within a few years, the Mason-McDuffie firm turned cattle pastures into some of Berkeley's most familiar neighborhoods, including Northbrae, Berkeley Heights (the area around the Monterey Market), Hopkins Terrace, Berryman & Shattuck, Thousand Oaks and the area around the Claremont Hotel.

Heavily influenced by his mentor LeConte, McDuffie insisted on working with nature, not against it, featuring underground utilities and streets that followed the contours of the hills rather than cutting a swath through them, à la Marin Avenue.

"He hated Marin Avenue," says Elizabeth Stevens, manager of Mason-McDuffie's Berkeley office (now called



MARTIN SNAPP

Snapp Shots

Prudential Realty) and an unofficial firm historian. "It's the antithesis of what he was all about."

According to the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, "These subdivisions were not merely roads and residences; they reflected refinement, elegance and aesthetics." It is these two men Berkeleyans should thank for the lovely, tree-lined streets they live on.

Mason died in 1928. McDuffie went on to become president of the Sierra Club from 1928 to 1931 and again from 1943 to 1946. He was a prime mover in creating the California State Park system and president of the Save the Redwoods League from 1944 until his death in 1951. And he lived long enough to see the Sierra Club name Mt. McDuffie in the Sierra Nevada range in his honor.

Today, the firm is called Prudential Realty. "But Prudential didn't buy us; we bought them," says Stevens. "We bought the Northern California franchise because we wanted the national name and recognizable brand, but we're still Mason-McDuffie. If we weren't, I wouldn't be working here."

Which leads to the obvious question: How come Mason and McDuffie's altruistic values aren't shared by many of today's business leaders?

"They weren't answerable to anyone but themselves, so they weren't slaves to the quarterly balance sheet," says Stevens. "That freed them to take the long view. And in the long run, you realize that your self-interest lies with the common good, not against it."

Footnote: When the Mason-McDuffie office opened, it got the 200th telephone number in Berkeley: BErkeley 0200. A century later, it still has the same number: 845-0200.

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

No more Elvis sightings

ELVIS HAS LEFT the building — again. This time we're referring to our own Elvis: Lt. Bill Palmini of the Albany Police Department, who has retired after more than three decades on the force.

Like seemingly all Elvis impersonators, he channeled the Vegas-era Presley, not the arguably cooler '50s-era model with the pink shirts and tight black pants.

We admit it might be more prestigious for a city's police department to be known far and wide for something other than one of its men dressing in sequins and singing like the King.

Palmini himself says the whole thing started as a joke performance, at a traffic conference.

When you look at the record and think of the kids' lives he must have saved through his work, you have to think that, while the original Elvis made us feel good, this one actually did good.

How much singing like Elvis about traffic safety helped would be hard to quantify. But it sure couldn't have hurt.

Meanwhile, Palmini and his partner, former Albany Police Sgt. Art "The Lawman" Clemons, earned an honorary gold record and lots of publicity. Palmini has performed shows in 15 states and Canada, and German TV made documentaries about him.

In non-Elvis mode, the lieutenant also started a diversion program for teenagers with drug and alcohol problems.

This program had a 90 percent rate of success for participants while they still lived in Albany, he has said. Police Chief Greg Bone has promised that it will continue.

We applaud the chief's decision to continue what's clearly a successful program. And we bid a fond farewell to our very own Elvis, who will work on the department's Chief Operator program through the end of the month.

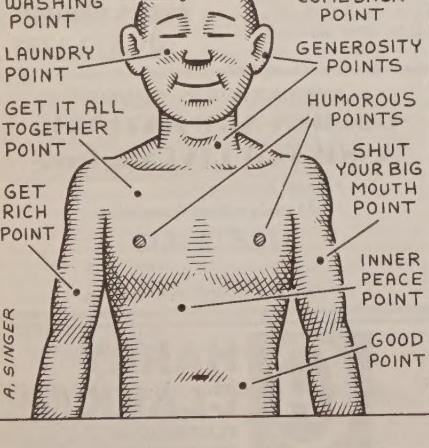
When you look at the record and think of the kids' lives he must have saved through his work, you have to think that, while the original Elvis made us feel good, this one actually did good.

So, Lt. Palmini, we can't resist saying to you in the words of the King himself: Thank you very much.

NO EXIT

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LESSER KNOWN ACUPUNCTURE POINTS



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Don Perata: (D-9th District; Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-445-6577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-286-1333. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District; El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-6083, e-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District; Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA

94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 101 Broadway, Richmond, CA 94804, 510-234-0211; Fax: 510-234-0213.

County Supervisors

John Gioia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3231. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-276-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

By George Amberg

COMING SOON will be a decision by the City Council/Redevelopment Agency whether to proceed with the Cerrito Theater project.

Regardless of the misnomer "historic" applied to the Quonset hut, and regardless of the claims of the presence of what some call art deco masterpieces, what really matters is how our tax dollars are to be spent on a dubious commercial enterprise.

The support for the spending lies in a flawed fiscal analysis done by a consultant who was paid with our tax dollars. One agenda bill claims that the agency could recover its cost by selling it if the theater fails, but there is no proof of this, nor

COMMENTARY

proof that the sale price would equal the agency's outlay.

The analysis claims that the agreed-upon annual payments over 25 years by the theater operator, starting at \$10,000/month, will offset the cost of refurbishing — said to be in the \$2.5-3 million range. No actual estimates by a competent construction firm have led to this, and this number could be too low.

Note also that the current extension of the agency ends in 2014, 11 years from now — not 25. The agency's reserve can't cover the projected cost. If the agency must borrow, there will be ignored interest costs. Assume a borrowed amount of \$3

million at a rate of 6 percent. That annual interest payment is \$180,000 — much exceeding the amount the theater operator agrees to pay for the first few years. That is a substantial cost that would keep operator payments from truly paying back all of the agency's investment, not just the principal.

The analysis also ignores opportunity costs. These are the revenues that could have come to the city/agency had the original owner continued his plans for the property, instead of his selling it to the agency for \$520,000. First is the interest the agency would have earned on that payment. Next would have been sales tax money generated as part of the business or businesses located there.

Also important is the loss of

property tax revenue. If the city/agency owns it, the property leaves the tax roll and the result is neither tax to the city nor tax increment to the agency. The refurbishing cost, plus the prior owner's added value, say, \$200,000, for a total of \$720,000, is the only tax allowed under Prop. 13, the total property tax would begin at \$7,200. Added to the interest costs, the total would be a substantial barrier to repairing

the theater.

For those who live in El Cerrito and who are dismayed that this is high time to let their council/agency hear your voices.

George Amberg is a long-time resident of El Cerrito.

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

SUMMER IS CLASS REUNION TIME

WEREN'T YOU
PETE BONZERELLI,
THE CLASS CLOWN?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bush defaces flag

Recently, I saw yet another example of the inconsistencies between President Bush's words and his actions. It is well-known that he and his supporters have often criticized various people for defacing our flag when they are protesting actions of our government.

What are we to think, then, when President Bush, in an Associated Press photo released July 24, is shown violating the law by defacing our flag as he autographed a small U.S. flag for someone.

The U.S. Code clearly states: "The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature." By the way, the title of that portion of the code is, "Respect for the Flag."

President Bush, if you want to criticize people for breaking laws meant to ensure respect for our flag, you should really follow those laws yourself!

Alan C. Miller

El Cerrito

Miller is a retired Navy captain.

compound our frustrations about increasingly limited service, we also have to worry about AC Transit drivers who don't think it's important enough for them to drive their entire route.

It is this type of driver behavior that has resulted in unreliable bus service and turns increasing numbers of people, such as me, away from public transportation and back into our cars. Not a good strategy for a public agency trying to maintain good consumer relations while attempting to justify its spending budgets in increasingly difficult financial times.

David Rowell
El Cerrito

Portable numbers

In "School plans spur discord" (Journal, July 25), on the rebuilding of El Cerrito High, Glen Price made the statement that portables would cost \$6.5 million.

Yet, at the June and July meetings at El Cerrito High, the architects told the site committee and the neighbors that the middle site and the corner site would cost the same, \$3 million. The corner site would require the use of portables; the middle site would require extensive landfill.

Since Price is a school board member, he may have information the rest of us have not been given or perhaps Price is simply building a case because he favors the middle site. If it is the former, I can state unequivocally that the neighbors have had a difficult time getting information from the site committee, principal Vince Rhea, or the school board.

But the information we have been given does not agree with Price's figures. Price does not mention the significant costs associated with the landfill (to say

nothing of safety and environmental degradation).

Communication with the public in this matter has been abysmal. We are still waiting for answers to questions we could not ask at the "public" July meeting, but were instructed to turn the questions on 3-by-5 cards. No word yet.

The teacher, Gail Hetler, who says we should consider the welfare of the students first, is absolutely right. To me, that should not mean keeping the students and their teachers in a building that has been pronounced seismically unsafe for the next three to five years.

Voters approved rebuilding, not relocation. At this point, it would appear the school board is postponing a decision on the site until late September. That being the case, the upcoming special school bond Measure C may be the first school bond I will vote against in my 32 years of teaching. I would do so with great reluctance.

JoAnne Bockelman
El Cerrito

Too much noise

Interesting that you should profile the gas-powered toy planes-sailing that people do where we go for an otherwise more peaceful, pleasant walk, sit, exercise and quiet enjoyment of one of the few spots that can happen with all those lovely advantages at the ex-Albany dump. It's now categorized an international treasure to those of us who seek its pleasures — or to be attacked by the raging madness of gasoline-powered engines penetrating to the farthest reaches of the area.

Like gasoline-powered mowers, leaf blowers, trimmers, saws, other implements of nature, including of humankind, these sounds would be appropriate at the preposterous "park" along the freeway between Ashby and University avenues — a noisy mind-blower; park or die! Not! Torture, yes; to sit there and put up with the huge freeway noise trying to read, talk, have a picnic, and relax. Huh!

Get those planes to a place where they belong — not to where the quiet's scarce otherwise could be available along the north edge of the race track/end of Marin Street.

Norma J. F. Harrison
Berkeley

Refurbishing theater is fiscally irresponsible

By George Amberg

COMING SOON will be a decision by the City Council/Redevelopment Agency whether to proceed with the Cerrito Theater project.

Regardless of the misnomer "historic" applied to the Quonset hut, and regardless of the claims of the presence of what some call art deco masterpieces, what really matters is how our tax dollars are to be spent on a dubious commercial enterprise.

The support for the spending lies in a flawed fiscal analysis done by a consultant who was paid with our tax dollars. One agenda bill claims that the agency could recover its cost by selling it if the theater fails, but there is no proof of this, nor

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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Jail librarian sees life behind prisons' bars

Quote of the week:
Alcatraz, the federal prison
in a name like the blare of a
lance, (is) a black molar in
the jawbone of the nation's
system."

— Thomas E. Gaddis, 1908-
4, "Birdman of Alcatraz"



JULIE WINKELSTEIN

At the Library

HERE ARE TWO events in my life that changed me dramatically. The first was the birth of my first child, and the second was my day as a jails librarian. In cases, it was as if I had never been a path I'd never noticed led to a world I'd never imagined.

I worked as a jails librarian eight years, through the Contra County Library extension services. This branch includes senior outreach, literature, the Bookmobile and the program.

When I first started, we had an old Bookmobile and a van to deliver books and magazines to the old Santa Rita Jail in Pleasanton, North Contra Costa County. The jail and work furlough program was driven through the gates and the prisoners, looking much like people at a company picnic, would come check out library materials.

The disparity between the two kinds of institutions was hard to miss. Extension Services still provides library service to FCI and Santa Rita Jail. I asked the current jail librarian, Lyra Geray, whether there was anything she would like to say about her work.

"The inmates really, really appreciate it," she said, "and they tell us all time how much they do." And we always welcome donations, she added, especially magazines and paperback books, and Spanish and Vietnamese language material.

READER REVIEW: Today's book review is from Nora and the book is "Sula" by Toni Morrison. This novel is about "a poor black town over 50 years ago and the inhabitants, specifically two best friends who grow up there." Nora says it was "much more interesting than it sounded ... and it leaves you feeling you understand something more of human nature."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@acounty.org or at the Albany Library.

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Pottermania

OK, MAYBE THEY'RE Muggles (that would be nonmagical regular humans) like the rest of us, but Chris Slamon and daughter Haley, 7, certainly had what it takes to help Myzard the Wizard (aka Rick Allen) do a magic trick at the Richmond Library's Harry Potter Birthday Celebration. Allen accompanied Potter's creator, author J.K. Rowling on her 1999 book-signing tour of California.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

In an effort to help identify people, events and places in historical photographs from the Albany Library collection, **The Albany Library** and the Albany Senior Center will present "Tea and Photos — An Afternoon of Albany History."

This free drop-in event also is a chance for those who have historical photos to lend them to the library, so they can be scanned and then returned.

Tea and Photos will be held at the Albany Senior Center, 846 Masonic Ave., Albany, from 2 to 4 p.m. on Aug. 13. Tea and cake will be served.

The library will hold a drop-in poetry-writing workshop Wednesday, Aug. 13, from 7 to 9 p.m., led by Alison Sevak. Sevak will also lead a drop-in poetry writing workshop for students in grades four through eight, Saturday, Aug. 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. Both programs will be held in the Edith Stone Room of the library, 1247 Marin Ave. Light refreshments will be served. For

more information, call 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

The library is located at 1247 Marin Ave. For more information, call 510-526-3720 ext. 20, or ext. 18

You can learn the basics of the Internet at the **El Cerrito Library's** beginning Internet workshops. Practice computer mouse skills, set up e-mail, search the Web, locate library materials in the online catalog, and find the information you need in the library's databases. The workshops are held on alternating Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. Call 510-526-7512 to sign up!

Also in El Cerrito: Learn how to apply the principles of the martial art aikido with fourth-degree black belt Gordon Teekell in a presentation at the library, Tuesday, Aug. 19, at 7 p.m. Aikido was conceived as a way to reconcile conflict peacefully without having to resort to violence. The aim of the

aikidoist is to be in conscious control of both mind and body and to maintain a calm presence.

Young readers can participate in a new **Contra Costa County Library** activity, "Just for Teens 2003: It's possible @ your library" from Sept. 15 to Oct. 25, and earn prizes for reading.

The second annual teen reading program is for students in grades six through 12. Students can count reading for school and just for fun.

In El Cerrito, participants can pick up their reading record on or after Sept. 15 at the library or download it at www.ccclib.org.

The El Cerrito Library is at 6510 Stockton Ave. For more information, call 510-526-7512.

formation, call 510-526-7512.

The **Kensington Library** will wrap up its Wild About Reading programs with a party featuring Jungle Joe in an interactive puppet show, and a drawing for the big cuddly Bengal tiger, Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 7 p.m.

The library hosts Family Storytimes for all ages at 10:30 a.m. Saturdays and 7 p.m. Tuesdays except when special programs are scheduled.

The library will hold its wrap-up party and puppet show for the end of the Summer Reading Program at 7 p.m. Aug. 26.

The Kensington Library is located at 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Phone: 510-524-3043.

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Attention El Cerrito Residents!

A New Curbside Recycling Program is Arriving at Your Doorstep the Week of August 25-29th!



All mixed paper including newspapers. Bundle your cardboard.

The City will be hosting a Recycling Information Meeting on August 11th at 7pm in the City Council Chambers @ the Community Center.

Yes, more capacity for materials!

Yes, recycle more types of plastics!

Yes, it is easier to use!

Bring your old green buckets to the Recycling Center or keep them for other uses.

For more information, call the El Cerrito Recycling Center at (510) 215-4350.

Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to Ann Fields, 1969 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 94611; e-mail to afields@cctimes.com or fax to 510-339-4066.

Children

■ Stage Door Conservatory's "On Broadway" program for 5th-9th Graders presents "Bye Bye Birdie," at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 15 and 5 p.m. Aug. 16 and 17. The play takes place at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave. The Broadway musical is about a rock and roll star, Conrad Birdie, who is about to enter the army. Tickets: Adults \$13, children/students, seniors \$8. For more information visit www.juliamorgan.org.

■ The Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., presents "Read Me a Story," a free drop-in program in which teens read picture books aloud to young children, age 3 and up. The program takes place 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Saturday through Aug. 16. 510-526-3720, ext. 20.

■ Lawrence Hall of Science presents the exhibit "Lego Ocean Adventure," through Sept. 7. The underwater world comes to life through role play and hands-on activities. Children learn how people eat, sleep, and work while living underwater as well as how scientists explore the ocean depths using unmanned rovers. Children can role play and construct their own Lego creations of underwater vessels and instrument. Hours: daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: \$8 adults; \$6 youth 5-18, seniors and disabled; \$4 for children 3-4; free under 3. Details: 510-642-5132.

■ Beginning Internet Workshops take place at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Learn the basics of the Internet—mouse skills, e-mail, web searching, and the library's on-line catalog and databases. Classes are free of charge. Alternate Saturday mornings from 10-11 a.m. 510-526-7512.

■ Children's Social Skills and Manners workshops are offered in Albany on Saturdays for two hours, 3 to 5 p.m. Each workshop lasts for four weeks. Details: Linda, 527-6202.

■ Teen Support Group meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. 531-7551.



STAGE DOOR CONSERVATORY'S "On Broadway" program for fifth-to ninth-graders presents "Bye Bye Birdie" Aug. 15-17 at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts. For information visit www.juliamorgan.org.

1/2 years meets Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Moeser Lane, 215-4371.

■ Check out books from the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. 848-0237.

■ El Cerrito offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-

■ LGBTQ Parent and Prospective Parent Groups meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with concurrent child care at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. familyprogram@yahoo.com or 925-483-8560.

■ The Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers" sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. Details: 524-0821.

Community

■ The Albany Library and the Albany Senior Center present "Tea and Photo—An Afternoon of Albany History," from 2 to 4 p.m. Aug. 13, at the Albany Senior Center, 846 Masonic Ave., Albany. This free drop-in event is an opportunity to help identify people, events and places in historical photographs from the Albany Library collection. It is also a chance to lend your own Albany historical photographs to the library so they can be scanned and returned. Tea and cake will be served. For more information, call the Albany Library at 510-526-3720.

■ The University of California Botanical Garden continues its "Twilight Tours," with expert horticulturists through Aug. 13. Hours: 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Free for members, \$5 for non-members, includes garden admission. Space is limited. Registration required. Call 510-643-2755 to register.

■ Berkeley Neighborhood Computers, a non-profit organization, provides high-value and high-demand computer technology training for disadvantaged and at-risk individuals. The organization seeks computers and networking equipment to be used for training purposes. All donations are tax deductible. 845-1226 or e-mail bnc@netvalue.net.

■ Berkeley Camera Club meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share slides and prints, learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Details: 525-3565.

■ TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) Chapter CA 1294 meets Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Thursday at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. Betty Coates at 235-0490.

■ Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. For an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine has a background in design and education. Call 848-6370.

■ Berkeley's Office of Emergency

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Services presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. Register: 644-8736.

■ Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. 642-6086.

■ Overeaters Anonymous meet Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the child-care room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively. 525-5231.

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Calendar

COM PAGE A6

Film/dance/stage

Learn easy international folk dances, for all ages at the Albany YMCA, 501 Kalins Ave. No experience needed. comfortable shoes and come prepared for a good time. Admission: Adults \$2, kids \$1. Details: 525-1130.

Family Folkdancing takes place the first Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenazik Dance Community Center, 7 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Witzt Weiss. Bring your family and have fun. No experience necessary. opportunity for families to dance and sing together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in, no registration needed. Adults \$3, children \$2. Details: 632-3713.

swing Dance Classes! Learn East swing and Lindy Hop with heel and persephone of Shagtime Instruction, on Mondays at the K Studio, 2566 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The K, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a weekly series. Details: Michael Maran 528-7858.

Health

Marie Tooth support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Valley Library, 1125 University Ave. at 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuromuscular disorder. Details: 524-3506.

WCA Health and Community Education drop in classes in dance, fitness, a martial arts and more; University CA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$10.

Lecture/workshop

The Berkeley Camera Club meets every Tuesday evening, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Don, 510-525-3565 or www.berkeleycameroclub.org.

Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center expanded its collection of contemporary fiction, nonfiction and children's books. Meet the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is open to the public. Hours: 11 and to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. Details: 848-0237.

Tai Chi Chuan and Chi-kung classes take place at Berkeley Unitarian Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 9 a.m. Saturday mornings at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. People of all ages and physical conditions are welcome to practice. Donation: \$65. 268-4995.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public as well as the different things that the center has to offer such as a great variety of workshops. They are held every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370.

Learn Computer Applications for the "working" world Using Windows '95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint. Publisher Class offered: Monday-Friday, 2:15-6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. 237-0840 or www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/rop.

"What is Meditation," is a peaceful and practical introduction to the basics of meditation. The free seminar takes place at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 2352 Shattuck Ave. Pragito Dove is the facilitator. Details: 644-0861.

Emotions Anonymous: Twelve-Step

meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 236-8226 for Berkeley location.

Literary Events

Ben Ailes, a Berkeley-based professional freelance photographer for 25 years, leads a casual discussion called "The Lighter Side of Crop Circles" at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 18, at the Berkeley Public Library's Central Community Room, 2090 Kittridge St. Ailes photographed the reactions of pilgrims to the large crop circles that turned up in Solano County in early July. For more information, call 510-548-6969.

The El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., presents author **Carole Terwilliger Meyers** talking about her book "Western Adventures in Northern California." Learn about a vast array of vacation wonders. Free. For more information, call 510-526-7512.

Storytelling for Adults, a group of storytellers, and listeners, who love to listen to stories, to keep the oral tradition alive, meet from 7 to 8:45 p.m. on the first Thursday each month at the Claremont Branch, Berkeley Public Library, 1940 Benvenue, at Ashby. Free. 610-644-6880; or 525-1533.

The Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library 2121 Aliston Way. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must compete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

Learn Computer Applications for the "working" world Using Windows '95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint. Publisher Class offered: Monday-Friday, 2:15-6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. 237-0840 or www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/rop.

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Emotions Anonymous: Twelve-Step

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learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 510-525-3565 or visit the Web site at www.berkeleycameroclub.org.

The Panthers of the Evening will have a showing of "Grabbing Headline with Street Theater: A Media Workshop for Activists" at 7 p.m. Aug. 13. Light supper. Location: 1403 Addison, Berkeley. For more information, call the office at 510-548-6969.

Kol Hadash is the Bay area's only Jewish Humanistic Congregation, with more than 110 family members from Berkeley to Danville, Petaluma, San Francisco to Concord, and all communities in between. The group meet on the fourth Friday of each month for a regular Shabbat (Sabbath), every other month on a Saturday for a Family Sabbath. The group holds Sunday school classes two Sundays a month, celebrates all the major Jewish holidays and holds special events from time to time. Location: Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. 428-1492.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 25 meet on the third Tuesday of the month. The evening begins with a no host dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m. at 2608 Center St. A short business meeting follows at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price: \$3. Women who have had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the chapter. For more details call R. DeRitt, Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-572-8364.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public and the great variety of workshops held every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

Friendship Circle, a Jewish club for older adults, meet 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, at the Oakland Senior Center, 200 Grand Ave. The club is an outreach program of Berkeley Rich-

mond Jewish Community Center. Activities include day trips, Jewish holiday celebrations, theater outings, entertainment, speaker and much more. Call Marla at 848-0237 ext. 115 for details.

Improve your speaking skills by attending Berkeley Communicators.

Toastmaster meetings, the first and third Wednesdays each month at 7:15 a.m. at Vault's Cafe, 3250 Adeline St. Call 527-2337 for more information.

The Berkeley Camera Club meets every Thursday evenings 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more information, call Don at 525-3565.

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Smart! Join Beijing Express Toastmasters, The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hillegas Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For details, call 869-2547 or 643-7645.

Berkeley Toastmasters Club meet monthly, the first and third Thursdays at 2515 Hillegas Ave. The group specializes in developing its communication and public speaking skills in the field of metaphysics. The group also learn from each other through short speeches. Call Odette Larde at 869-2547 or 643-7645.

The Kensington Senior Activity Center meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event you choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Details: 526-9146 or 547-1969.

The YWCA offers free orientations every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the resources available to the public and the great variety of workshops held every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

Smart! Join Beijing Express Toastmasters, The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

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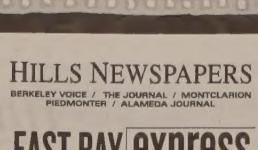
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Resident enjoys city's history and local lore

KATHY PACHECO is fascinated by history, particularly by the history of her home of 25 years, Albany. She owns and reads all of the books the late Catherine Webb wrote about Albany, and loves to listen to friends and neighbors tell of their lives and times in that city.

So it was not surprising that when she read my column about the people who were starting an Albany Historical Society she would call me to say she would love to help. Her interest was so great and her talk of neighbors who were long-time Albany residents so fascinating that I asked her to come talk with me about it.

Kathy Pacheco is an active woman who is retired after teaching hearing-impaired children for about 30 years. She says her interest in history began when she lived in England for a couple of years after college. "I had lived there when I was younger because my father was in the Navy, and that was wonderful." She says she married af-



CLARA-RAE GENSER
Community Folk

ter college and moved to England to go to graduate school.

"We lived in Brighton," she says, "and it was wonderful. I spent my time taking historical walks and visiting historical places."

Pacheco says she was always interested in history. Anthropology was her first major in college, but she changed it to psychology. She talks about working with Koko, the gorilla who signed, and with Michael, who died a couple of years ago. Michael, she says, was just learning to sign and to ask for what he wanted by signing. She worked with Penny Patterson, who was writing her dissertation about the gorillas and had bought Koko from a zoo.

When she returned from England she had difficulty finding a job. She says she got into teaching hearing-impaired children because she had always been interested in language development.

She speaks of watching the language development of deaf children, of the politics in the disputes between those who believe in signing and those who do not, of those who believe in cochlear implants and those who do not. She has found children do very well with the implants.

She says her interest in the history of Albany was enhanced when she spoke with the Cola family, a large family that had lived in Albany for many years. They owned a liquor store on San Pablo Avenue after World War II, she says, and they tell stories of that era.

Pacheco's daughter, doing a paper on Albany, interviewed Mrs. Cola, who told her about the wine poured into the Bay when the probation laws were passed. Cola remembers how discrimination was rampant in those days. She also shared

good memories about growing tomatoes to make the Italian dishes they loved — and a lot about Italian culture.

With her husband, Pacheco loves to take walks and often visits historical homes and buildings in the East Bay. She particularly likes Mark Wilson's books on the subject.

Pacheco was born in Belmont, went to UC Santa Cruz and to graduate school in San Francisco. She and her family moved to Albany because houses were cheaper here, she says, and they quickly came to love it. They have lots of friends here and find it a great place for kids to grow up.

"I'd hate to live in a place where you had to drive to shopping and everything else. This is a lovely place to live."

Do you know people, places or groups in El Cerrito, Albany or Kensington that would make good subjects for this column? If so, please write me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 510-525-4585.

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Medi-Cal cuts won't affect current facility residents

Q: With all the talk of cuts in Medi-Cal, how will this impact someone who needs to go into a nursing home?

A: When a skilled nursing facility intends to withdraw from the Medi-Cal program, they are required to give the public the information and note it in their files in each district office. When a facility files an intent to withdraw, anyone who is admitted after that filing may be evicted if the person spends all of his or her assets and applies for Medi-Cal.

This means that if the facility files an intent to withdraw and your family member is already in the facility, he or she may not be affected other than to be moved to a shared room.

If the family member is a new resident who has been paying privately applies for Medi-Cal, the facility is not required to keep that resident. For questions or information, call California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform 1-800-474-1116.

Q: My brother and sister live in another state, and they are



HELEN MOYES
Senior Solutions

older than I am. I'm in my 70s. I'm sure there must be some drug programs for low-income seniors in other states as well as California. How would I find out what's in place?

A: There are 25 states that offer low-income drug assistance programs for those with Medicare. Go to www.medicarerights.org/rx-chart-states.html. By state, it describes the program and eligibility guidelines.

Q: I am worried about my neighbor, who has been taking care of her husband for a long time. She says she feels like she is about to give out. She is worried about what will happen if she becomes ill because who will then be the caregiver?

They have discussed a nursing home, and her husband is willing to go if things get really bad. The doctor says he needs to have 24-hour care now and it seems to me she would be better off if he were in a home. Am I on the right track?

A: It's always hard to judge how much is enough. Only the caregiver can judge that. The other fact is that even though the person being cared for goes into a skilled nursing facility, the care doesn't really stop. It just changes. On the plus side, it gives the caregiver a breather because he or she knows the family member will have 24-hour nursing care. There will be bills to pay, errands to run and arrangements to be made, and the person who's responsible for doing those is usually the caregiver.

If you are a caregiver, here is something I'd like to share with you from the Alzheimer's Daily News online. It comes from www.agelessdesign.com and is an article written regarding two nurses that teach family caregivers "skills they need

to stay happy and healthy while they care for a loved one with health problems." Some of the topics included in the six-week course are ways to reduce stress, improving one's self-confidence, communication of feelings and how the caregiver can balance his or her life to "thrive as caregivers."

The course is for the adult children and friends as well as husbands and wives of an ill family member.

Debbie Wolfe, one of the teachers of the course, stated: "Family members tend to see care-giving as a responsibility rather than a job they might need a break from." She also states, "We find people aren't taking care of themselves. The ill person is (sometimes) in better shape than the caregiver."

Helen Moyes is the senior resource specialist at Mastick Senior Center. Reach her at hmoyes@ci.alameda.ca.us.

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Albany Gazette

ESTABLISHED BY THE ALBANY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOLUME 1, EDITION 3, AUGUST 8, 2003

Big Box vs. Main Street

By James Carter
Executive Director
Chamber of Commerce

malls, north and south, shed massive advertising designed to convince they are not malls at all squares and real life communities.

They are very much like a community - downtown

marketing professionals have if they keep repeating the mantra over and over again, will believe, they will come. Twain once said faith is believe in something that ain't so... He wasn't dangerous - he was a talkin' like that just a few too many times till themselves are mesmerized into their own hooey...

There's nothing wrong with shopping at such places - you want to patronize stacked styrofoam buildings constructed ancient burial grounds.

Don't know about YOU, but I wouldn't be caught dead there...

This whole we're a real community campaign reminds me of when an amusement park leveled a five-hundred-year-old village in the French countryside to build a theme park there. The main attraction? Facades designed to look like - well, a five-hundred-year-old French village! Only newer...

Talk to us, baby

Albany is where Main Street meets the future - ALBANY is where folks can come to experience what it is like to belong to a real community - yes it is!

And during these times people want to be part of a community again - they want to patronize shops and restaurants where they are greeted by the owners - shops and restaurants that offer goods and wonderful dishes you'd never find in a parking lot surrounded by a mall.

This weekend you could go to a styrofoam mall or other development where you could buy the same stuff folks purchase in Los Angeles, Phoenix and Toledo...

Or you could grab your lover, your children, your friends and come to a real community, a place where the overwhelming majority of businesses are independently-owned and operated - you could come to Albany where Main Street meets the future...

Opinion THE "BID" is Bad for Business

By James Carter

If you are doing business on Solano Avenue in Berkeley, or one block north or south, do you favor a mandatory assessment attached to your business license? That is exactly what will happen if the Solano Avenue Association (SAA) succeeds in establishing a Business Improvement District (BID) on Solano in Berkeley.

This is the fourth time in three years the SAA is pushing a BID. And this time, they claim it is because of competition from big boxes and malls and the recession. One can't help but ask what was their argument in the year 2000?

At a general meeting of the SAA last fall, their executive director frankly revealed the real reason for the push: I'm tired of collecting dues from members and giving people a free ride, she said.

One thing has changed this year, however: The SAA - which would become the BID - limited the zone for the BID to the Berkeley side of Solano Avenue.

Bidding on Solano

According to the SAA's proposal, a BID may be established at the request of local business owners. But what if most businesses do not want one? The answer: they are pretty much out of luck.

The SAA claims there are

concept safety features, that provide a system of checks and balances which, among other things, protects participating businesses from escalating fees or misuse of the annual funds.

The greatest safety feature built into the BID and its potential formation is that it is nearly impossible to get rid of a BID once it has been established. Yet the SAA claims The BID can easily be disestablished by the members presenting (Berkeley City) Council with a petition representing 50 percent or more of the annual fees paid.

This is where things get interesting. There is a complicated schedule of fees depending upon the type of business, the number of employees, and its location.

If you own a restaurant or retail shop on Solano Avenue, for example, you will be assessed an annual fee (for the first year) ranging from \$200 to \$400.

Service Businesses on Solano will be forced to pay \$175, Professional Businesses \$150, Financial institutions \$500. Again, this is for the first year only...

In order to prevent a BID from being formed, 50 percent of the votes or fees would have to oppose it. Remember, some businesses have more votes than others. As a consequence, more than a majority of businesses in the

proposed district would have to sign petitions to prevent its formation.

However, there is no minimum requirement for a BID to be established. In other words, the BID can be instituted by default - it need not wait an election, nor show support to be formed.

The process for eliminating a BID, if one is established, is even more undemocratic. According to Ted Burton from the City of Berkeley, the Board of Directors of the SAA (acting as the BID board of directors) would be the ones who would recommend that a BID be disbanded.

Ever hear of a bureaucracy dismantling itself?

Although the Albany Chamber of Commerce does not support a BID anywhere on Solano Avenue, we do support the SAA, their work, and encourage people to join their organization. We demonstrate our strong support for the SAA by distributing their brochures, selling their t-shirts, gift certificates, and posters, and fielding countless phone calls about the Solano Stroll for them. Yet it is our view that no business or individual should be forced to join an organization, forced to pay dues (an assessment) and forbidden to withdraw from it. Such draconian measures are not democratic, and are certainly not good for business.

Come home to Albany and feel like yourself again

Someone once described Albany as a sweet little town blessed with a wonderful combination of mom-and-pop shops, modern boutiques, and gourmet restaurants, one rich in diversity - a beautiful, safe and generous place...

You see, Albany is a community. And our independently-owned-and-operated businesses are an organic part of our small town.

Why not come and see for yourself? We're having a hometown street festival called Summer Days and Nights in Albany, two consecutive Saturdays - August 16th and 23rd, from 10 am to 10 pm.

We'll have live music, arts and crafts, jugglers, lion dancers, magicians and more.

No worries, you won't be jammed

elbow-to-elbow with folks standing in line, hustling you, or giving you grief.

Our idea is a small and intimate street fair, one where families and couples can relax, do a little window shopping, enjoy the entertainment and explore the little shops and terrific restaurants that make Albany so unique.

Come and enjoy an ice cream cone or sundae, a wonderful foreign film, nibble on a fresh croissant, sip a cappuccino, or a cup of tea brewed from organically grown, hand-picked whole leaf teas from China...

During one visit, you can enjoy fresh-baked bread, cakes and cookies, get a hairdo, have your nails done, your teeth cleaned, your back adjusted and your pet bathed and trimmed.

If you have enough time, you can get in couple of games of bowling at one of the few remaining small-town bowling alleys, take home exotic fish and a new aquarium, pick up imported goods from Tibet, Thailand, Central America and Main Street U.S.A. You see, Albany is a town that combines the best of old and new...

You'll be amazed by the diversity of goods available here - everything from handicrafts made by indigenous peoples from across the Americas, to bicycles to butterflies, and mind-boggling exotic bugs; used toys that are as good as new, to garden supplies, organic mulch, planters, pots and petunias.

Our shops carry terrific collections of baseball cards, wonderful children's clothing, sporting goods and household appliances, comic books and gorgeous lamps, charming home furnishings and antiques, model airplanes, kits, and toys like the ones you had as a child.

Are you looking for Chinese medicinal herbs, seeking holistic treatments for the things that ail ya? Better come to Albany.

Or perhaps you'd like to just sit an ice cold microbrew and watch a baseball game, or sample gourmet wine and listen to jazz while you sample plate, poached salmon, or paella. It's all here...

And there is a growing nightlife in Albany, including clubs that feature live bands performing everything from rhythm and blues to jazz, funk to rock, country-and-western, to salsa, meringue and mambo.

Then there are the restaurants... You can get everything you want in Albany's restaurants... Come and enjoy gourmet cuisine from southern France, Italy, Japan, Hungary, and six different regions in China. Without stepping a foot out of town you can sample the best in culinary delights from Nepal, the Mediterranean, Cambodia, India, Iran, and Vietnam, not to mention fresh seafood and garden salads, pasta and shish kabob, vegetarian delights, enchanting mole and other specialties from Mexico and all of Latin America.

Oh, but there's more... That's the thing about Albany - you can relish exotic tapas, Hungarian goulash, soulful barbecue, California Cuisine, Mediterranean fare, curries and pastries, cheeseburgers, French fries and malts.

So grab your lover, your kids, your neighbor, or a friend and come to Albany August 16th and 23rd, listen to live music, and just enjoy what it feels like to be part of a community again.

Come home to Albany - where the sun shines at just the right angle, the merchants are happy to see you, and everyone will give you the time of day...

Walker's Restaurant

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East Bay Municipal Utility District





CLAREMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL gave it up for the King in March 2000 when Albany police Lt. Bill Palmini got the students all shook up with his rockin' messages on traffic safety. With Palmini's retirement, the nationally recognized safety program's final curtain will fall at the end of this month.

Palmini

FROM PAGE A1

costs related to the Chief Operator program — and the rest to youth programs, including \$30,000 each for the Albany Teen Center and Albany Police Activities League (APAL).

The money was allocated to the youth organizations on the condition that it be used for traffic safety programs, said Albany financial services manager Charlene Adams.

Councilwoman Peggy Thomsen said the program was valuable to Albany directly because of the money it provided.

City programs however, will likely not be affected by the loss of grant money.

"It still isn't a whole lot of money, so I'm sure we'll find some way to maintain the program," she said.

Palmini began working with the Albany Police Department in 1968 and began the chief operator program in 1990, after performing as Presley as a joke at a state traffic conference.

In addition to performing and his work as a detective, he also began a program in which he counseled teen-agers for 12 weeks who were caught drinking or doing illegal drugs.

Palmini said he was proud that the diversion program had a 90 percent success rate for participants tracked while they lived in the city. That program will continue, said Bone.

As for the Chief Operator, Palmini said the rate of alcohol-related deaths among teen-agers decreased 32 percent in nine Bay Area counties, where the program was focused, a greater decrease than has been seen elsewhere in the state.

The successful program garnered an honorary gold record

for Palmini and partner, former Albany police Sgt. Art "The Lawyer" Clemons; and extensive media coverage, including three documentaries on German prime-time television.

Palmini retired from police work Friday, Aug. 1, but he'll be wrapping up the chief operator program at an office at City Hall until Aug. 31. He was performing in Fresno this week. He'll be at the annual Hollister Street Fair in Hollister on Aug. 16.

"I got in this business to help people and I still feel that way 35 years later," Palmini said. "I know a lot of police officers leave and are bitter. I'm not, I'm going to miss this job tremendously. And I still have the same commitment today that I had in '68."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Buildings

FROM PAGE A1

Solano Avenue. She wants the council to lower the 45-foot height limit.

"Now that we've seen what the vision did, we ought to reconsider the vision, honestly," Thomsen said. "Three stories would be fine, but four stories is out of proportion to what else is there."

Councilman Robert Good said he was in favor of mixed-use developments on San Pablo Avenue but was unhappy with some of the features of the Portland Avenue structure.

He didn't like the way the second story of the building jutted out over the first story, creating an overhang and darkening the sidewalk below. He was also un-

happy with the fact that four of its 24 parking spaces were created by installing hydraulic lifts for vehicles.

"I fear compromises were made to get these guys to develop and we shouldn't be doing that," Good said.

Albany community development director Ann Chaney said concerns were understandable because the buildings are such an unusual addition.

The last multi-unit housing project on San Pablo Avenue, the Creekside Apartment building, was finished two years ago, Chaney said. Before that, no apartments had been built on San Pablo since the late 1980s.

"I think this issue is coming forward because they're new, it's different," Chaney said. "I haven't seen anything like this in Albany for many years."

Chaney said the new residential units are helping meet regional housing needs, as outlined by the Bay Area's planning organization, the Association of Bay Area Governments.

ABAG says the city should build 277 units of housing from 2000 to 2005, 97 of them for people with low and very low incomes, said ABAG principal planner Alex Amoroso.

However, none of the units from the two new buildings are considered affordable for those with low and very low incomes, and the city will likely fail to meet housing goals for those groups by 2005, Chaney said.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

Albany

FROM PAGE A1

Tickets for the Summer Days raffle can be purchased at various businesses. Prizes include a free dinner, movie and tea package, two free 31-day pass for anywhere AC Transit goes, a \$40 gift certificate at the Kao Sarn Thai import shop and a \$50 gift certificate at Solano Clothing.

The raffle tickets will sell in books of five, and they can be redeemed for discounts or free

merchandise at participating businesses. Maps posted on Solano and San Pablo avenues will show where deals and discounts can be found.

Summer Days was first held last year and is part of an ongoing effort by the chamber to draw people downtown. This month, fewer people are shopping in Albany because they're on vacation or waiting for the next big festival — The Solano Stroll on Sept. 14, Carter said.

Chamber events have included business "mixers" and the food and art festival "A Taste of

Albany."

"We want to have events about once every couple of months to draw people to town as well as ongoing promotional campaigns," Carter said, adding that the chamber is considering new holiday events, as well as a weekend farmer's market.

For more information about Summer Days and Nights in Albany, call 510-525-1771.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

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BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

"Magic: The Gathering and Yu-Gi-Oh!" Aug. 15, 2 p.m. A day of trading card activities including free duels and door prizes. No instruction will be given. In the Story Room. Free. Central Library, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. (510) 981-6223 or www.inopeople.org/bpl

BLACK DIAMOND MINES REGIONAL PRESERVE

Originally the home of several Native American tribes, white men began coal mining in the 1860s. The preserve today features old mines and displays of the history of the area.

"Laundry Day," Aug. 9, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Learn how laundry was washed before washing machines. Try out a dolly stick, washboard or wringer.

"Farm Songs on the Horse-Drawn Wagon," Aug. 10, 11 a.m. to noon. Sing along with a guitar player to traditional farm songs.

"Drop-in Knitting," Aug. 10, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Learn to knit or bring a project you are already working on.

"Barnyard Buddies," Aug. 16, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Get up close to all your favorite barnyard pals. Feed the goat, pat a bunny, greet the heifers and touch a chicken.

"Hay Hoisting," Aug. 16, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Make rope with an antique machine and then learn how ropes help when hoisting hay bales in the barn.

"History Tour," Aug. 16, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Tour the grounds, hear about the history of the farm and learn what life was like 100 years ago.

Unless noted, programs are free with admission of \$1 to \$5 general; \$1 to \$4 seniors; \$0.50 to \$3 children age 4 to 12; free children under age 4. Tuesdays through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. (510) 796-0199 or (510) 796-0663 or www.ebparks.org

BARNES AND NOBLE, OAKLAND — "Kids Story Times," ongoing. Stories will be read in the Children's Book Area. The Friday reading is for pre-schoolers. Free. Second Friday, 11 a.m.; Third Saturday, 1 p.m.; Second Sunday, 2 p.m. 98 Broadway, Jack London Square.

THE BLACKHAWK MUSEUM — AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM — The museum's permanent exhibition of internationally renowned automobiles dates from 1897 to the 1980s. The cars are displayed as works of art with room to walk completely around each car and admire the craftsmanship. On long-term loan from the Smithsonian Institution is a Long Steam Tricycle, a 1893-94 Duryea, the first Duryea built by the Duryea brothers; a 1948 Tucker, number 39 of the 51 Tuckers built, this is a Model 48 "Torpedo" four-door sedan.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS — "Race Cars: Purpose-Built for En-

durance," ongoing. A dozen significant cars built for long distance racing, including Aston Martin DB2, Facel Vega, K3, a Jaguar XK-E, a Porsche 906, and the V-8 powered Gulf Mirage GR8 spyder. In the Lower Le Mans. In the Lower Le Mans.

"Ferrari: 1960s V-12s," exhibition of the 1960s road cars that have become famous with speed, style and design engineering.

"FastPower III," through August. Exhibit of the models of the students from the Industrial Design at the College in San Francisco. Includes 1:5 scale die bodies and interiors for portation Design Dept. as storyboards and collages.

"Somerville Van and Mine Tour," Aug. 9, 10 a.m. to noon. Take a tour through a nineteenth-century mining townsite and walk through some cool underground passages in the Hazel-Atlas Mine. For ages 55 and older. Registration required. (510) 636-1684. \$3.

"Golden Bough," Aug. 16, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. This Celtic music trio will conclude the summer concert series.

Free unless otherwise noted, \$4 parking fee. Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to dusk. Somerville Road, about 5 miles south of State Route 4 in Antioch. (925) 757-2620 or www.ebparks.org

THE FINE ART OF CARS — An exhibit of automobile Zapadiuk and Alfredo

"A Tribute to the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance and Lorin H. Tryon," ongoing. presents a look back at years of the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance through photos and text plus several memorabilia.

SPECIAL EVENT — "Grayson's Birds of the Forest," Aug. 10, 2 p.m. A slide show by Andrew Hoyem of Grayson's bird paintings.

Regular museum admission.

Lawmakers strip from the county's budget. from the county's budget. Office of the County Executive. Office of the County Executive. double that amount accordingly.

"We feel good about our financial planning," said Contra Costa County Executive Linda Dippel.

One major cut is

Contra Costa remains.

The county's Employee

Human Services Department

has not yet received word

funding allocations, John Cullen.

The department's

child welfare, including

Adult Protection and Foster Care.

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ALPHA GRANITE & MARBLE

Real Estate & Home

Advertising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclarion, The Piedmonter

Friday, August 8, 2003

Section B



CLE BARGEBOARDS define Alameda's Gothic Revival Webster House. John Nelson Webster built this Pioneer-era home —now a bed and breakfast — in 1854.

The Island City's Pioneer-era homes

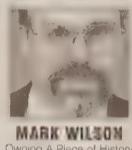
In last week's column, I described some of the pioneer era buildings still standing in the city of Alameda (that is, those structures between 1848 and 1878). Now, I will take a look at the collection of Pioneer-era buildings that remain in the East Bay's island city of Alameda. Alameda was part of the Luis María Ranchos between 1820 and Gold Rush. No extant structures remain from that period. Then in 1851, Yankee settlers built their first wood-frame houses in the eastern end of the island. The community grew slowly through the 1850s and 1860s. In the 1870s, several major railroad lines connected Alameda, and a building boom began. The city was finally incorporated in 1872.

A remarkable survivor from the first decade of Alameda's Yankee history is the J.N. Webster House, at 1238 Versailles Ave. This Gothic Revival cottage was built in 1852, according to primary evidence discovered by the current owners. This house was likely prefabricated in the East, then shipped around Cape Horn.

The Webster House has features typical of the Gothic Revival Style: high-peaked gables lined with "icicle" barge boards and split pilasters lined with pointed arch tracery along the porch.

This is definitely the oldest remaining house in Alameda. Mr. Webster was a money broker. The home is currently a bed and breakfast. A block away, at 1318 Versailles

See WILSON, Page B2



MARK WILSON
Owning A Piece of History

Definitely the oldest remaining residence in Alameda, the Webster House has features typical of the Gothic Revival Style: high-peaked gables lined with "icicle" barge boards and split pilasters lined with pointed arch tracery along the porch.

A block away, at 1318 Versailles

See WILSON, Page B2

Real Estate Spotlight:

Classic Mediterranean in Upper Oakmore



THE HOME AT 2309 BYWOOD DR., OAKLAND, has many exceptional architectural details. The main level is ideal for parties or informal gatherings. The spacious living room features dark wood beams, a fireplace and random plank floors. A large window overlooks the garden and San Francisco Bay. A spacious dining room with French doors leads to a deck overlooking the terraced garden. The kitchen features granite counters and backsplash and wood parquet floors. Adjacent to the kitchen is an eating area and family room. The attached two-car garage adds easy access. There are three bedrooms, two baths upstairs including a master suite featuring a remodeled marble bathroom with Bay view. There is a rumpus room with a stone fireplace and wet bar. Outside is a deck and hot tub and mature landscaping. A terraced back garden includes a fountain, built-in BBQ and gazebo. Downstairs has a bedroom and bath plus a laundry room.

Price: \$925,000. Listing agent: Norm Robinow, Coldwell Banker Previews, 510-339-4733, nrobinow@camoves.com. Home is open Sunday 2 - 5 p.m.

Finding the right loan for your home

■ How to decide on the best kind of mortgage

By NMAN NEWS/FEATURES

Today's low interest rates make 30-year fixed-rate mortgages pretty attractive. But, is a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage the best way to go?

What about an ARM (adjustable rate mortgage); a 5-year fixed; a 5/2/5 or even a 15-year fixed? With so many mortgage products to choose from, how do you decide which is best for you?

Assuming you have no problems qualifying for a loan, the decision will depend on your personal goals as well as your tolerance for risk.

An ARM is riskier than a fixed-rate loan because the interest rate and monthly payment might go up over time.

Borrowers who have a low tolerance for risk, or who are on a fixed income, often prefer a fixed-rate mortgage with an interest rate and monthly payment that won't change.



DIANA HYMER
House Hunting

The length of time you plan to stay in your home should weigh

See HYMER, Page B2

By Appointment

ADAM'S POINT \$998,000

8 units lovingly restored with many upgrades. Four 2 bedrooms, Four studios, Three garage parking. Close to transportation.

Teresa Chan 510-339-8400

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OAKLAND \$399,000

Great floor plan in contemporary home. Needs some TLC, but worth the look. Very motivated seller. Bring offers!

Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

CONCORD \$369,500

Bright & sunny, 3 bedroom/2 bath home; 2-car garage with roll-up door. Larger lot with many possibilities.

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WEST OAKLAND \$325,000

Real money maker. Vacant, clean and cozy duplex. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, the other unit is a one bedroom, one bath. Lots of upgrades, high rental area. Call today!

Arnold Mueller 510-339-4000

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LAND HILLS \$1,195,000
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urb old-world craftsmanship and
king Bay views abound in this
4500 sq. ft. villa offering an
ensive gourmet kitchen, 950 sq. ft.
ter retreat, 4+ bedrooms and
baths. Stunning!
Jane McConville 510-339-4280

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A MOVE, PLEASE CALL US!



UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,195,000

6151 Buena Vista Avenue

One of a kind work of art. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths with bay and San Francisco views. Dramatic living room, formal dining room. Mature landscaped yard with plentiful flowers and fruits. Home office and legal in-law with separate entrances. Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$550,000

598 Crestmont Drive

This is the outstanding 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath, tri-level ranch home you've waited for all summer. Great floorplan has family room downstairs, formal dining room and more. Redwood school district. Call us for a pre-view.

Rosemary Greene 510-339-4000

GLENVIEW \$475,000

1486 Allman Street

Beautiful Glenview craftsman. Completely remodeled. Great neighborhood. A must see!

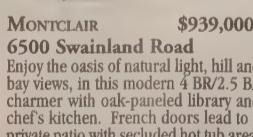
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

SAN LEANDRO \$425,000

2062 Miramonte Avenue

Charming contemporary on big lot. Good floor plan. Price includes vacant parcel lot in rear of home.

Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000



CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$749,000

4161 Balfour Avenue

1921 charm, 2001 condition. 5 bedrooms, 2 1/2 Bath. Birch hardwood floors, sunny eat-in kitchen, master suite. Open 2-5 p.m.

Jack Breneman 510-339-4557

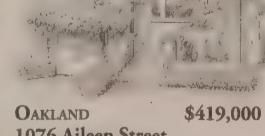


OAKLAND \$419,000

1076 Aileen Street

Fabulous 1914 Craftsman with original woodwork intact! Built-in cabinetry, formal dining, huge sun porch, fireplace, stained glass windows & lawn potential. A must see!

Lila Owens 510-339-4000



MONTCLAIR \$819,000

Drop dead gorgeous pano SF & Bay views form each spacious deck. 4 BR/3.5 BA remodeled entertainer's showplace with hardwood floors, granite countertops, and formal dining area. Convenient access to biking, hiking and jogging trails.

Beautiful!

Nahid Nassiri 510-339-4550

BLACKHAWK \$699,000

Pristine view, rolling green lawns, private & spacious court yard entrance, soaring ceilings, hardwood floors, 3 bedrooms (one used as a den) 2 baths, light & bright kitchen.

Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

WALNUT CREEK \$650,000

Updated one-story, 2055 sq. ft., 4 bedroom/3 bath on 1/2 acre level lot on court includes: side entry garage, circular driveway, well, RV parking, new roof, paint, carpets, kitchen & more. Directions:

Danville Blvd., Castle Hill Rd, left on Meadow Rd to...

Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

DANVILLE \$599,900

Ready for you to place your furniture and go off to the pool! Relaxed 3 bedroom, 3 bath home features marble entry, gleaming hardwood floors, built-in speaker system, ceiling fans, light & bright kitchen/family room combo leads to patio with views!

Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

OAKLAND \$250,000

One of the best condo's around! 1 bedroom/1 bath. Close to shops and freeway.

A.D. Nassir/Pearl Wong 510-339-4000

OAKLAND \$210,000

Great starter home! Split level 2 bedroom with new carpet, new interior paint, new linoleum in kitchen and bath, fireplace and attached garage. Close to transportation!

Lila Owens 510-339-4000

Coming Soon

OAKLAND \$649,500

Impressive 2-story ranch home in Sequoyah hills has all the rooms you need. Drive by, then call us ahead of the crowd to make this your dream home.

Rosemary Greene 510-339-4000



WHAT KIND OF HOME do you want? Make a list of what you definitely want in a home before you start looking at properties.

Wilson

FROM PAGE B1

A block away, at 1318 Versailles Ave., is an Italianate style Pioneer box. This is one of the earlier homes still standing on the east end. This cottage was built in 1878 by Joseph D. Cuthbert, a clerk. It has an unusual double wide dormer window.

One block west, at 1319 Pearl St., is another Pioneer-era Italianate cottage, built in 1878 by a dairyman named Matthew W. McChesney.

Alameda's Gold Coast is the area between Park and Webster

streets within a few blocks of the bay. It was so named because many well-to-do professionals from San Francisco settled here in the 1870s to the 1890s, and built large and elaborate homes in various late Victorian-era styles. A few Pioneer-era homes from the first generation of the island's history still remain on the Gold Coast.

At 2044 Alameda Ave. stands a Pioneer-era cottage built in 1875 by a Mr. Siegfried, an Alameda tea dealer. A few years later, architect Charles S. Shaner expanded and remodeled the original cottage into a "San Francisco Stick-style" house.

HOUSE HUNTING TIP: For this reason, it's a good idea to consider the worst-case scenario before choosing a fixed-rate ARM. Suppose you don't move at the end of five years as you thought you would. Calculate how much the loan will cost you if interest rates were to skyrocket during the fixed-rate term of the loan and you ended up paying the maximum rate allowed for several years.

Fully adjustable-rate mortgages are available in the 3 percent range. Many of these loans adjust monthly. Although riskier, these loans are popular with borrowers who need financial relief. These loans are also the easiest to qualify for. Some ARM products even allow the borrower to make a reduced payment in lean financial times.

The 15-year fixed loans are popular with borrowers who think they want to own their homes free of any debt. These loans are harder to qualify for because of the higher monthly payment.

THE CLOSING: A 30-year loan offers more flexibility than a 15-year because you're not locked into a higher monthly payment. But, you can always pay more on a 30-year loan if you want to pay it off faster. Just make sure the loan doesn't have a prepayment penalty.

Dian Hymer can be reached at 510-339-4777 or by e-mail at Dian@Dianhymer.com.

At 1419 Union St. stands a fine example of a simple Stick-style cottage, which incorporates Italianate-style windows on its facade and angled bay. It was built in 1878 for Mr. Frederick M. Varden.

One of the East Bay's finest Bracketed Italianate-style homes is the Anthony House, which stands at 1330 Central Ave. It was built in 1876 for a prosperous railroad official. Because of its ornate features, one would normally not consider this a pioneer building.

However, when this house was built there were virtually no other homes for several blocks in each direction, and thus it was one of the true Gold Coast Pioneer-era homes.

At 2156 San Antonio Ave. stands another raised-basement, false-front Pioneer-era cottage. It was built in 1877 for Charles Tautphaus, a butcher. A block further east along San Antonio at number 2225, stands an early Bracketed Italianate House built in 1878 for Adam C. Gilbert, a real estate broker.

One of the oldest extant residences in Alameda is a classic Pioneer-era box that stands at 1218 Oak St. It was built between 1870 and 1875 for Mr. Joseph Maristany. This home has the typical neoclassical feature of a gable lined with dentils and a frieze.

The home's square latticed windows still evoke the simple frontier era during which it was built.

In next week's column, I will discuss some of the finest examples of pioneer-era structures that still stand in East and West Oakland.

Mark A. Wilson can be reached at 510-273-9383 or by e-mail at MarkW@aol.com.

PLEASE RECYCLE.

Hints for first-time homebuyers

■ What you need to know before you make that all-important purchase

NAPS

Having the right information can make buying a home easier. Start with these basic questions:

■ Do you have a stable, reliable source of income? Have you been steadily employed for the past two years? When you apply for a mortgage you will be asked for your pay stubs, bank statements and other financial statements to qualify.

Gather the information early, to save time and hassle filling out the mortgage application.

■ Do you consistently pay your bills on time, including rent, auto loans, utilities and consumer loans such as department store credit cards? Your credit history affects the type of loan and the interest rate you get.

You can find out your credit history from the three principal credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian

and Trans Union LLC.

■ Is your debt manageable? Can you afford a mortgage payment, repairs, upgrades and other expenses of homeownership? Broken appliances, a leaky roof, peeling paint and other repairs will be your responsibility.

■ Can you afford the down payment costs and closing costs? Typically three to 20 percent of the home price is needed in cash for a down payment. On top of that are closing costs that can add thousands more.

In fact, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the single greatest barrier to buying a home is the down payment.

If you don't have the cash up front, there are non-profits and other organizations that can help.

The largest non-profit organization offering down payment gifts, AmeriDream, Inc., donates up to five percent of the home's purchase price for closing and down payment costs to qualified buyers.

Having the right information can make buying a home easier. Start with these basic questions:

■ What kind of mortgage do you want: adjustable rate, fixed or hybrid? Consult a lender for help.

■ Where do you want to live: city, country, in between? Consider the location of shopping and your workplace.

■ What do you want in your home: number of bedrooms, garage, fireplace, wood?

To learn more about down payment assistance, go to www.hud.gov or www.ameridream.org.

A look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

FOR THE PUBLIC

Calling All Women

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter has planned a mini-trade show for women interested in the process of home buying. "United We Stand: Homeownership for Women" will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 27. The show is held at the Oakland Association of Realtors Auditorium on Webster Street in Oakland. Learn about home buying, credit, lending and selecting a real estate professional. Children's activities are also included. There is also easy access by BART. For additional information contact Monique Washington at 510-452-8280.

Inform Meeting in Alameda

The public is always welcome at the Inform Meeting. The Inform is sponsored by the Alameda Association of Realtors. The next meeting begins at 8:30 a.m., next Tuesday. The location is the Garden Isle Community Center on Melrose Avenue in Alameda. This month's speaker is Square Trade, an online company providing mediation and arbitration. The topic is "Mediation & Arbitration." Agents are encouraged to bring information on new listings for presentation to the group. For more information contact AAR's Mary Canizzaro at 510-523-7229.

Love Stain Glass?

"Your Home" is the focus of a series of monthly seminars on a variety of home enhancement topics. Love Stain Glass? "Your Home" is the focus of a series of monthly seminars on a variety of home enhancement topics. Love Stain Glass? "Your Home" is the focus of a series of monthly seminars on a variety of home enhancement topics.

The classes are held at Ryan's Antiques on Main Street in Hayward. Sherry from I Love Stain Glass presents "Using Stain Glass in Your Home Décor," this Sunday. Seating is limited. Contact seminar sponsor Aileen Matson of Coldwell Banker for reservations at 510-881-7755.

Home Product Design

Berkeley Home Real Estate offers a speaker series with home design professionals discussing their work and answering your questions. Architect-product designer Charles Deppa is the presenter this Sunday. To RSVP, call Catherine Stern of Berkeley Home Real Estate at 510-524-5406.

Home Move-Ups

This Berkeley workshop could be for you. "How To Buy A Home When You Already Own One" addresses making a move up purchase in this market. An explanation of bridge loans and home equity lines are given. To insure copies of class materials reservations are needed. To secure a spot in a future workshop contact Helen Walker of Thornwall Properties at 510-848-1950 x250.

REALTOR.COM

If you are interested in buying or selling real estate research reports confirm that Realtor.com remains the number one website choice of consumers. The site receives support from hundreds of thousands of Realtors. Check it out at Realtor.com.

WCR EVENT SPONSOR

The Women's Council of Realtors

BERKELEY HOME REALTY

Credit Worth

tors East Bay Chapter's opportunity for business real estate community associates to sponsor their trade show. "United We Stand: Homeownership for Women" is scheduled for Sunday. Sponsorship categories include Corporate, Vendor, and Vendor. There are speaking opportunities for participants. For participation contact Monique Washington at 510-452-8280.

OUTPERFORM

World Savings offers training exclusively for credit association of Realtors. Mike Iorio and Nika Kellie of World Savings and Loans vision are the hosts. Equals three DRE credit hours. Learn all the uses of the calculator. Call 510-297-7064 your spot.

See REID, Page 7

Find Out What Your Home is Worth

visit:

www.BerkeleyHomeRealEstate.com

Agent RE/MAX

The GRUBB Co.



121 LaSalle Avenue, Piedmont

COMING SOON. Truly a magnificent English Tudor. Large living room with timbered beam ceiling, fireplace and hardwood floors. Four bedrooms, three + baths, breakfast room, kitchen/family room, pool and spa.

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RED OAK REALTY

www.redoakrealty.com

JUST LISTED!

1805 Franklin
Berkeley

Offered at \$429,000

Open Sunday
August 10th, 1-4 PM



Classic 2 bedroom bungalow close to North Berkeley BART. Separate dining room, large kitchen/nook, terrace overlooking magnificently lush garden and brick patio.

Photos and more at www.bobblumberg.com

BOB BLUMBERG

510.280.2132

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The GRUBB Co.



8934 Elston Avenue, Oakland
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This two+ bedroom, two+ bath home has been lovingly renovated to sp

modern amenities with Old World charm. On a friendly street in the desirable Glenview neighborhood, this home is within walking distance of shopping, dining and transportation. Photo: johnandjudith.com

Offered at \$799,000

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254 Yale Avenue, Kensington
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Exquisite remodel - charming and Spectacular views of San Francisco Bay. Beautifully updated. Four bedrooms/two baths. Large level yard, garden and patio.

Offered at \$799,000

RUTH FRASSETTO

OFFICE: 652.2133/414

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Real Estate & Home

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HILLS NEWSPAPERS

BERKELEY VOICE / THE JOURNAL / MONTCLARION

PIEDMONT / ALAMEDA JOURNAL

When things go wrong as they sometimes will . . .

Return to April 2001 Number 358
a series of true experiences in real estate

Many of our clients are people we knew before they talked to us about real estate. We know them from Berkeley Rep theater days, or we called to ask us about something in our newspaper column, or we are friends of friends.

They tend to be people who first want to understand what they're thinking of doing. This is a wonderful thing. They tell us that they probably will buy or sell but before you decide, they need information, because it is possible they will do nothing.

And so we talk about the pros and cons of buying or selling. We know what they are trying to accomplish, and why. We think through how the plan would work,

ON PAGE B2

SPECIAL SPORTS

There's something for everyone in the Sports Challenge 2003. This multifaceted event is supported by Alameda County Realtors and Affiliates and benefits Special Olympics. For the athletic challenges there is the Golf Event and Tennis Event. Or attend the Unwind and pamper yourself at the Arbor Bay Club. Each event includes lunch. There are awards, an auction and a raffle. All events are Sunday, Aug. 14. Be sure to register early. For more information and registration forms call 510-553-0280 ext. 25.

EAT & EAT

Oakland Realtors are invited to Oakland affiliates at the monthly "Day" Breakfast. The breakfast is at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, July 24, at the OAR Building. Attorney Clinton Linn will speak on the new development plan. Bring marketing and an appetite. Network and sell more. For questions and information call Ingrid Kriegel of North American Title 510-339-2380 or Ramadan Aziz First American Title at 510-339-5010.

MEMBERS NEEDED

Bob Valva of Valva Realty invites existing real estate brokers to attend the Oakland Realtors Commercial & Industrial Brokers Committee. According to Valva he was appointed years ago, by Oakland mayor to facilitate city land leasing. The committee's pose is to help build Oakland. Its next meeting is Thursday, Aug. 14, at the OAR Auditorium on 10th Street. If you would like to attend call at 510-451-7317.

ORAL LEE

The Oakland Association of Realtors continues to help support the Lejeune Brown Foundation. The foundation provides college scholarships for Oakland high school students. A committee was formed to create a simple and easy way for those in the real estate community to contribute. Real estate agents and brokers are invited to designate contributions, at the close of show. To find out more contact a Hans of Prudential California City at 510-287-2521.

LEASE RENEWAL OR CLOSERS

Diane Gomer Seminars offers classes for DRE license renewal and broker license testing preparation. For anyone needing license renewal all 45 hours of DRE tests available in 1/2-day sessions. Classes and test preparation are free for the brokers license State Exam. To ask about class schedules and costs call 1-800-439-4909.

NOT ON FIRST

Last week there was a "change of the guard" at the Alameda location of Realtors. Remy Boyd is leaving new horizons. Replacing him is Mary Canizzaro. Best of both.

RE/MAX of California & Hawaii remains a "Top 100" list of its top-producing agents. The list is updated monthly. Applause to agent Hugh Hughey of RE/MAX Bay West in Berkeley, he ranked 15 on last. The company boasts 8600 agents.

LET'S UP DOC?

Tell me about it! Fundraisers, workshops, promotions, auctions and change of scenery money. Information deadline is weeks before the event. Send email to bobbieried@mindspring.com. Fax your info to me at 510-7791.

what they would get. It is frequently true that after examination, the plan changes or is abandoned, at least for the time being.

Maybe this kind of collaboration is the reason they chose to talk to us rather than other agents, but it's more likely they haven't thought about it much. It isn't too often that people wonder, "Which agent would be best?" Most people think one agent is as good as another.

Let's think about this. How clever does your agent need to be anyway?

If you are buying or selling a house, you're about to go on an uncharted course. You don't know what lies there. Maybe it will be without mishap or maybe there will be travails.

At the very least, surely, you'd hope that your agent speaks your language. While you are sorting out the details, settling on the price of the goods, it would be helpful if you didn't have to wonder what your guide is saying. It would be great if the two of you are in accord.

Maybe you think of buying or selling as a safe journey, like going to Hawaii on vacation. Let us hope it is exactly that. But you know about vacations. Sometimes there's a canceled flight, the food is bad, the camp site is too close to people playing loud music.

Wouldn't a professional fixer of things, someone who understands and can do something about the problem be welcome then?

Things go wrong in real estate, some worse than others: a creek under the living room, a leaky roof, the city being the owner of the part of the road your driveway is on.

Because this is so, you could certainly expect that your guide will know more than you do, will see things you would miss, will fight the alligators if they appear.

One woman said to us recently, "I bought my house from an agent



TARPPOFF AND TALBERT
True Experiences

Things go wrong in real estate, some worse than others: a creek under the living room, a leaky roof, the city being the owner of the part of the road your driveway is on.

five years ago but I wouldn't go back to her now.

She was great at showing us houses, but once we'd made our offer, we could never get hold of her. And when we had a problem with the sellers over the furnace, she seemed very uncomfortable and didn't want to deal with it."

This is not a horror story. The woman didn't lose life or limb or even a lot of money. But she lost faith, and she would not pick that agent again. If you had heard this opinion of an agent, would that agent be your choice?

Here's a worse one. We just heard about a sale that ended in a big fight. The seller had offered to pass along to the buyer new kitchen cabinets, appliances and marble countertops he had purchased but never installed.

The seller thought he had made clear what was included. The buyer

See TARPPOFF. Page B5

The GRUBB Co.
REAL ESTATE

NEW LISTING



71 Dudley Avenue, Piedmont

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A wonderful and enchanting oasis is located on approximately 2/3 of an acre with beautiful landscaping, arbor & pool. This very unique 4BR/4BA home and separate guest cottage captures the imagination!

Offered at \$2,650,000

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REAL ESTATE



5485 Taft Avenue, Rockridge

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Wonderful three plus bedroom two story classic Craftsman with original details coupled with updated kitchen and baths.

Offered at \$879,000

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1424 Josephine

SOLD
in North Berkeley



1424 Josephine Street, North Berkeley

Julie Nachtwey represented the Buyer
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Hiller Highlands Luxury Townhouse • \$679,000

Canyon views, master bedroom suite, gourmet kitchen, large living and dining room & Hiller Country Club Membership (pool, tennis, putting green etc.) It's like owning at the Four Seasons!

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Berkeley Victorian w/ 3 Bungalows! • \$1,329,000

This rare landmark property is one of a kind! The main house has 3+ bedrooms w/2 bathrooms. Soaring Victorian ceilings, 2 fireplaces and much more. Also included are 3 wonderful Spanish Med cottages and expansion potential. Surrounded by lush gardens and just minutes by foot to the Gourmet Ghetto! Learn more on our website at www.DaveAndCarla.com or call for FREE info 24 hours. 1-800-525-3704 ID#4207



Millsmont Tudor
\$379,000

Amazing Tudor just minutes from everything! Large updated kitchen, level fenced in backyard, Oak floors, beautiful fireplace, desirable floor plan and much more. The best value in Oakland! Learn more on our website at www.DaveAndCarla.com or call for FREE info 24 hours. 1-800-525-3704 ID#4207



Amazing Haddon Hill Tudor • \$819,000

Straight grained fir floors, box beamed ceilings, cozy fireplace, level fenced in backyard, great floor plan, leaded glass built-ins, and Old World craftsmanship. Minutes by foot to Lake Merritt! Learn more on our website at www.DaveAndCarla.com or call for FREE info 24 hours. 1-800-525-3704 ID#4208



Montclair w/Five Bedrooms! • \$650,000

Gourmet kitchen, master bedroom suite, 2 car garage, hardwood floors, updated bathrooms. Close to main arterials, Montclair Village and more! Learn more on our website at www.DaveAndCarla.com or call for FREE info 24 hours. 1-800-525-3704 ID#4208

"Dave and Carla, Thank you for everything you did to help us sell our home. Not only did you oversee our home sale from start to finish, but you also got us \$32,000 over asking. Wow! Now we're buying a home out of the area and we sure wish you were the agents helping us!"

JIM AND SYLVIA VIVETTE



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6526 Longwalk Drive \$1,095,000

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REALTORS®



5652 LaSalle Avenue, Oakland

By APPOINTMENT. Magnificent home built in 1999 and located on the Piedmont side of Montclair. The home incorporates beautiful iron and stone work throughout with Pecan hardwood floors, state of the art kitchen and a master suite with Bay views. Spectacular living room, formal dining, library and kitchen/family room combination.

Offered at \$1,890,000



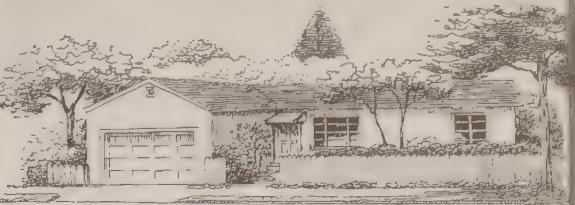
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By APPOINTMENT

New Claremont Listing!



142 Hillcrest Road • Open Sun., Aug. 10th, 2:00-5:00

An open, airy one-level home on a million dollar street! The home features a private garden and a large deck in a park-like setting. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths.

\$699,000

Prudential California Realty

Julie Lehman, Listing Agent
510-986-9556

545 Mira Vista

Open Sunday, August 10th, 2:00-5:00

Just Listed!!

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Prudential California Realty



FEATURED HOMES



OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$699,000
142 Hillcrest, Berkeley.
New Claremont listing! Airy home on
million \$ st!
Julie Lehman (510) 845-0211



OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$530,000
2215 Byron, Berkeley. Giant duplex.
3BR/1BA, patio space, vacant!
David (510) 868-1400



Crocker Highlands \$800,000
Outstanding Mediterranean.
4+BR/3+BA, 3200SF. Elegant & grand!
Dolores Thom (510) 834-2010



OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$699,000
1027 47th St., Emeryville. 2 houses
both 2BR/1BA. Family compound?
Income? (510) 868-1400



Steps to Tilden \$729,000
4BR/2BA Kensington charm & steps from Tilden.
Kathleen Wilson (510) 919-1111

Oakland/Piedmont

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,225,000
Rockridge stately Tudor. 5BR, 4BA,
decks, level yard, mint condition.
Glass/Sabine (510) 428-0900

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,149,000
7 White Court. New 3700 sq. ft.
construction w/pecan floors.
Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$865,000
6055 Grizzly Peak Blvd. 4BR, 3 BA,
beautiful Bay views.
Barbara Levy (510) 845-0211

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$775,000
7227 Skyline. Spacious Montclair Hills
3+BR/3.5BA home. 1st Open!
David Otero.com (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$690,000
5033 Crystal Ridge Court. Oakland
Hills GG view home.
JohnWesleyRealtor.com (510) 339-9290

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Prudential opens Richmond-Mira Vista office

PRUDENTIAL CALIFORNIA REALTY

Prudential California Realty has opened a franchise branch office in Richmond. The Richmond-Mira Vista office is at 12960 San Pablo Ave. Broker-owner Ray Smith also owns a successful branch in El Sobrante and was recently honored by Prudential as one of its top broker-owners.

"One of our primary goals at this new office is to show the local residents who are currently renting that they too can have the American dream of home ownership," said Smith. "The great feeling of satisfaction that one gets when turning the keys over to a first-time home buyer is one of the highlights of being in this business."

Eddie Santos is manager of the Richmond-Mira Vista office. Santos served as the assistant manager at the El Sobrante office and is one of Prudential's top producers in West Contra Costa County.

Smith opens the Richmond-Mira Vista office with

a staff of 17 agents, many of whom are bilingual, speaking a broad range of languages from Mandarin to Spanish. Smith plans to have 30 agents by the end of the year.

In addition to having access to Prudential's breadth of services and its impressive name recognition, other factors for Smith's decision to open a second franchise branch include Prudential's outstanding training program for agents, innovative technology, strong marketing tools and great networking opportunities.

"By opening a second office, we are better able to serve our clients in West Contra Costa County and offer an array of real estate services that are the best in the industry," said Smith.

Ed Krafchow, president of Prudential California Realty, cites the new office as a vital opportunity for PCR to increase its market presence in the Richmond area.

Tarpoff
FROM PAGE B3

brought he knew what he was getting. The two agents involved in the sale must have thought they knew because neither of them had written an inventory of the items. The sale closed, the buyer got keys, he went to the house, most of the parts of what would be his new kitchen were stored in the garage but there was no marble for the countertops. The marble, the buyer discovered after making several phone calls to his agent, was still at the marble store. A deposit had been made on the purchase but a large balance remained which the buyer was dismayed to learn, the buyer was dismayed to learn, he would have to pay.

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will come up and will play some part in what you are doing.

How trustworthy does your agent need to be?

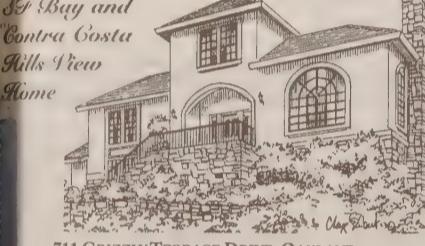
It may seem at times that it is just the two of you together in a small boat. It will be a help if your boat mate is a strong rower. And if, unhappily, your boat springs a leak, you'll be mighty glad if your companion can help you get to shore.

Talbert and Anet Tarpoff are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at www.tarpoffandtalbert.com.

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Coldwell Banker taps Montclair Realtor as co-manager

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in the San Francisco Bay Area announced that one of its top-producing real estate professionals, Evelyn Walker, will co-manage the company's Danville operations.

As the co-manager Walker will oversee more than 100 agents serving communities along the 680 corridor. Walker will co-manage the office with Norine Neyhouse, a 24-year area real estate veteran who has been with the Danville office for much of her career.

"I am proud to welcome Evelyn to our Danville office," said Avram Goldman, Coldwell Banker San Francisco Bay Area president and chief operating officer. "She is a longtime friend and respected colleague. Her enthusiasm for the real estate business will have a profound affect on our sales team. Norine and Evelyn will make a dynamic management duo."

Walker and Neyhouse plan to continue to build on the success of the Danville office and will focus largely on recruiting.

Walker previously served as a part Realtor for the Oakland/Montclair office of Coldwell Banker. A licensed Realtor since 1984, she

joined Coldwell Banker in 1991. Walker has earned a number of production awards including President's Club, International President's Circle and International Diamond Society.

Walker earned her bachelor's degree in literature from the University of California, Berkeley. She has been a member of the Board of Directors for the Oakland Association of Realtors since 1997. She has also been a director for CAR since 2001 and is currently serving on the legislative and property management committees. In 2002 Walker served as president of the Oakland Association of Realtors.

Under Walker's leadership, the association and its 900 registered members raised \$53,000 for the Oral Lee Brown Foundation (a local nonprofit organization dedicated toward continuing education for inner-city youth) by donating a portion of each commission to the nonprofit organization.

Coldwell Banker's Danville office is at 600 San Ramon Valley Boulevard. Contact 925-837-4100 or via e-mail at evelyn.walker@camoves.com.



EVELYN WALKER

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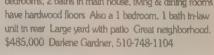


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SUNNY LOCATION. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths in main house, living & dining rooms have hardwood floors. Also a 1 bedroom, 1 bath in-law unit in rear. Large yard with patio.

Great neighborhood. \$499,000. Dennis Keele, 685-2000

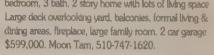


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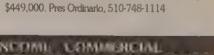


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Protect yourself from excess mortgage charges

BY PAMELA YIP

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Refinancing your mortgage is supposed to save you money.

"But if you're not careful, you could be paying far more than you bargained for. And it's not because of interest rates."

What many consumers overlook are the fees that accompany a mortgage.

"Lenders and brokers don't do a very good job in explaining who gets paid what fees and where they go," said Keith Gumbinger, vice president at HSH Associates in Butler, N.J., which publishes mortgage information. "People feel blindsided because the costs they are required to pay and the deposits they are required to make at the closing table are different than they have been led to expect."

But the mortgage financing industry isn't entirely to blame, he said:

"To be fair, borrowers don't take the time they need to understand what's involved in the transaction," Gumbinger said.

Some fees, such as those for administration, loan processing and underwriting, are negotiable ahead of time with a lender.

But it can be confusing: Fee names can differ, and some lenders combine categories.

Critics have named their own category: "junk fees." Those are fees charged to borrowers for a service that has little or no value and is duplicative.

"Are you getting the appropriate value for the service rendered?" said Patrick Arnold, a partner and real estate lawyer at Fulbright & Ja-

worski in Dallas. "Some of the junk fees are used by lenders just to increase their profit margin."

The federal government has proposed rules to streamline the process and make it more consumer-friendly. Even then, it's up to you to understand what you're paying for and to protect your money, even if it's just a small part of a huge mortgage loan.

Federal law says that when you apply for a mortgage, the lender must give you a good faith estimate of settlement costs.

That document lists the estimated fees you will have to pay to get the loan. It also identifies who is expected to provide services and receive fees in connection with your loan, such as credit bureaus, appraisers and closing agents.

A lender must give you the estimate document within three business days after you've applied for the loan. Study it carefully and don't be afraid to challenge any fee you don't understand.

"Some fees are legitimate," said Kathy Mitchell, research manager at Consumers Union in Austin, Texas. "Somebody had to sit down

and prepare your documents, but whether you pay them \$500 or \$100 — that's a big difference. We only say the fees should be reasonable."

Be realistic about what you have to pay.

"Just because there is no application fee doesn't mean there are no fees due at the time of application," Gumbinger said. "Even a good faith estimate does not have all the fees and charges you're required to pay."

Ideally, the estimate should come as close as possible to what will be on the settlement statement, given to you when you close your loan.

The statement, also called a HUD-1, is a loan-closing form required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. It provides details of all charges and payments made in connection with your loan, and shows to whom they are distributed.

"If the charges vary from the good faith estimate, there's not much they can do, other than to exercise the right to rescind," said Arnold of Fulbright & Jaworski.

Practically speaking, though, it's

First of all, you shouldn't have to pay an origination fee when you're refinancing, because you're refinancing your principal balance.

Craig Jarrel, president, Pulaski Mortgage Company

very difficult to walk away from the settlement table when you've gotten so far into the transaction and spent so much money already.

So protect yourself by preparing early.

"You want to save as much

See EXCESS, Page B8

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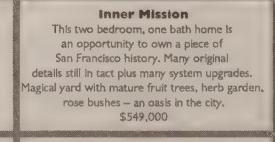
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	Crocker Amazon Sunny and bright top floor corner unit in the quiet back section of the complex. This beautiful condo has 2 br, 2 ba, living room, dining area, high ceilings, in-unit laundry, back deck off living room, deeded parking and plenty of closet space. Easy access to transportation and freeways. \$363,000
	Berkeley Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath home, hardwood floors, wainscoting, brick fireplace, formal dining room and a large back yard. The home has expansion potential. Walk to Whole Foods and shops. 2 car tandem parking. \$365,000
	Piedmont Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath home, hardwood floors, high ceilings, in-unit laundry, back deck off living room, deeded parking and plenty of closet space. Easy access to transportation and freeways. \$363,000

Prudential California Realty

Jim Hedges Manager

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San Francisco

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Excess

FROM PAGE B6

money as possible in the most cost-effective way," said Craig Jarrell, president of Pulaski Mortgage Co. in Dallas.

"First of all, you shouldn't have to pay an origination fee when you're refinancing, because you're refinancing your principal balance," he said.

"You want to look for the best interest rate with no origination fee in order to minimize the cost of your financing," Jarrell said.

The fees can have an insidious effect, because most people roll over their closing costs into their new loan.

"I want to not pay those extra lender fees like a processing fee, underwriting fee," Jarrell said. "It just adds money to your principal balance, which reduces your savings."

You have the right to inspect the settlement statement one business day before closing, so take advantage of that. Check for discrepancies between the good faith estimate and the settlement statement.

"There should be no variance on something you can control," Jarrell said.

"If my attorney charges \$225, then it should always be \$225."

Where changes may occur are areas involving third parties, he said.

"The appraiser may charge extra fees because of the difficulty of the appraisal, but we have to be able to prove that the bill actually exists," Jarrell said. "HUD doesn't allow us to mark those fees up. Lenders have to prove that charge is actually higher."

When you're shopping for a mortgage, research not just interest rates, but also closing costs.

"What you really should be asking your lender is not, 'What's your interest rate?'" Jarrell said. "It's, 'What's your APR (annual percentage rate), because the APR is the interest rate and the closing costs combined."

The federal government wants to make things easier for consumers by overhauling the mortgage settlement process as part of efforts to expand homeownership, particularly among minorities.

HUD officials say it will be the most sweeping reform of the mortgage loan process in almost 30 years.

"It isn't right that far too many Americans sit down at the settlement table, only to discover unexpected fees that can add hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars to the cost of their loan," HUD Secretary Mel Martinez said in an interview.

"Too often, people pay more for their closing than they have to."

He wants to relax current rules that inhibit lenders from offering loan applicants a "guaranteed mortgage package" that would have an

upfront guaranteed interest rate and a single guaranteed price for closing the transaction.

HUD also wants lenders to improve the good faith estimate, which Martinez said is now "more like a good faith guesstimate."

Lenders should provide consumers a simple, clear and firm estimate document, so they can better understand the charges and use them to comparison-shop before they're so heavily invested in the process that they can't back out, he said.

See EXCESS, Page B9

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Open Sunday 2-4:30. Located close to popular Piedmont Ave., this spacious three bedroom home features a formal dining room with fireplace, sunny eat-in kitchen, expansive lower level, mature garden with fruit trees, rose bushes and a carriage house. Seeing is believing!
Offered at \$619,000



MAVIS DELACROIX
OFFICE: 339.0400/205
delacroix@grubbc.com
GRUBBCO.COM

The GRUBB Co. REALTORS®



2632 Waring Ave., #10, Berkeley
Open Sunday 2-4:30. Sunny top floor 2BR/1BA condo in secure building near UC campus. Cozy fireplace in living room, sunny balcony, elevator for easy access & hill views are all available in this special property.

Offered at \$345,000



TRICIA SWIFT
OFFICE: 339.0400/333
tswift@grubbc.com
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THORNWALL Properties

Innovative, Caring Professionals
Own Your Own Home In The Affordable Community of Richmond!

\$335,000
Luscious Gardens in Delightful Richmond Annex!

Enchanting home with fireplace & skylight! Move-In condition! Quick trip to Trader Joe's & El Cerrito Plaza BART!

\$310,000
Charming Home in Friendly North & East Neighborhood!

Lovely hardwood floors, pretty yard, separate dining room. Nice deck for entertaining and leisure.

510 • 848 • 1950

www.thornwallproperties.com

Serving
the
East
Bay
since
1984

2 New Listings

Open
Sun.
1-3**6417 Waldo Ave., El Cerrito**

#342 - Great Area. Quiet neighborhood with partial in-law & plenty off street parking. Avoid commutes, close to many shopping areas, within walking distance to BART. You must see this one!

\$449,000

**Immaculate**

#290 - Two bedroom, 2.5 bath, two story end unit. Light & cheerful w/hardwood floors & quality carpeting. Painted & redecorated - spacious master bdrm. w/lots of closet space, enclosed garage w/door opener.

\$299,950

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HARBOR BAY REALTY
SALES•RENTALS•PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

BAYVIEW CREST In the Oakland Hills

Perched atop spectacular hills and stunning surroundings, with fast and easy access to the entire Bay Area, Protea Properties, Inc. presents four newly constructed homes.



8231 Skyline Circle, Oakland • Open Sat. and Sun. 1-5 PM

Priced from the mid \$800,000s



Set near open spaces with **inspiring views** and an abundance of **outdoor recreation**, these lovely homes are appointed with hardwood and marble flooring, granite slab counters, and high quality carpet.

Protea Properties, Inc. • 510-465-8888

**Glorious lot at 9 Diablo Dr.**

Ready to build! Full architectural blueprints with plan approval for stunning 3200+ sq. ft. home in the style of Bernard Maybeck. All utilities available. Fantastic panoramic views of SF bridges, and bay. On desirable new street in the Oakland Hills. Offered at \$370,000.



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ALAIN PINEL
REALTY

IDYLIC COUNTRY COTTAGE

5901 Alta Pista (Open Sun 2-4) 3 BR 1.5 BA, 1 car attached w/int. access, redwood deck with charming yard, remodeled kitchen, beautiful hardwood floors. www.carladellazzoppa.com \$10,662-8558 \$439,950

MAJESTIC NEW CONTEMPORARY

4 BR, 2.5 BA, approx. 2542 sq. ft., 2 car att. garage. Bay view Master suite, dual pane windows, great floor plan, don't miss #03026117 Ed Shelton 510-662-8522 \$875,000

RICHMOND VIEW**FABULOUS SPANISH MEDITERRANEAN FIXER**

403 McLaughlin 2+2 BR 1 BA, formal dining room, hardwood floors, large yard, fireplace, large kitchen. Reports available. www.geristem.com 510-662-8469 \$199,950

FALL IN LOVE WITH THIS BEAUTY

5919 Clement (Open Sun 1-4) 3 BR, 2.5 BA, quality details and lots of appointments, flower garden and incredible views! #03026379 www.cynthiaburke.com 510-662-8528 \$469,988

MINT CONDITION

6529 Hazel (Open Sun 1-4) 2 BR, 1 BA. A romantic yet practical fixer. Large living rm which opens to Chef's kitchen. Enjoy the tucked away office & laundry on main floor #03026343 www.cynthiaburke.com 510-662-8528 \$359,988

Visit our website - <http://www.spre.com>

Excess

FROM PAGE B8

The change would sharply limit lenders' ability to raise charges at the last minute. Martinez said.

He also wants lenders to clearly disclose mortgage broker fees. A mortgage broker obtains a mortgage loan for the borrower from another lender. HUD officials say lenders often pay brokers

fees for delivering customers willing to pay higher interest rates. Brokers say they charge the same fees as bankers do for the same work, but are able to shop around for the best rates.

Mortgage bankers say they support the HUD proposal.

"We think it will help streamline the mortgage process and make it more consumer-friendly and provide additional competition, and that will ultimately work to drive down costs for consumers," said Steve O'Connor, vice president of government affairs at the Mortgage Bankers Association of America.

But mortgage brokers say that while they support reforms that will protect consumers, the HUD proposal could hurt their industry.

"Large players will have a competitive advantage," said Ben Vogler, president of the Texas Association of Mortgage Brokers. "Only they would have the ability to package settlement services effectively."

Large mortgage banks could force third-party vendors to accept lower fees for their services. That would force those vendors to "undercut the low market rate for their services," Vogler said.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

NEW LISTING! OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30**WELLS & BENNETT**
REALTORS

CHRIS CHRISTENSEN



NANCY NOVICK

**3828 Glen Park Road
Offered at \$479,000**

Sunny three bedroom, one bath home in desirable Glenview neighborhood. Hardwood floors, fireplace, level yard, detached garage with workshop. Close to shops and restaurants. Easy commute location.

Contact us at: 510.485.7242

**Quick Over-The-Net
Pre-Approval
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www.EastBayHomeLoan.com**

Agent: Re: Max

The GRUBB Co.

**1129 Harvard Road, Piedmont**

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Constructed in 1925 and exhibiting all the charm of that era, this great home is what you have been searching for. Five plus bedrooms and a fabulous new state-of-the-art kitchen. Lovely hardwood floors and gumwood trim.

Offered at \$1,250,000

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Photo Tours

of this and other current listings.

RED OAK REALTY **Homes Open Sunday**www.redoakrealty.com

BERKELEY **\$875,000**
3/3 - 1920's Craftsman with deck and view
In a quiet and peaceful setting. Extensive updating, designer kitchen. Wonderful terraced yard for play/gardening.

1155 Glen Avenue Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! **\$449,000**
2/2 - Beautifully remodeled Craftsman cottage - secluded rear house with hardwood floors, stone fireplace, loft, work studio, yard and deck. Fabulous space!
2812 1/2 Martin Luther King Open 2-4:30



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! **\$399,000**
2/1 - "Home Sweet Home." This charming starter has it all. New paint inside & out, refinished hardwood floors, gorgeous front and backyard. Near BART, UC & freeway.
1335 Ward Street Open 2-4:30



OAKLAND **\$435,000**
LOFT - Super fresh spacious and soaring 2-level loft in historic Clawson Building. Separate living mezzanine. Large west-facing windows on both levels.
3240 Perdita Street #15 Open 2-4



BERKELEY **\$799,000**
3+3 - Contemporary Berkeley Brown Shingle with a serene park-like yard. Close to Gourmet Ghetto, shops, transportation and campus. Convenience and comfort!
2252 Summer Street Open 2-4:30



BERKELEY **\$429,000**
2/1 - Classic bungalow close to North Berkeley BART. Separate dining room, large kitchen/nook, terrace overlooking magnificently lush garden and brick patio.
1805 Franklin Street Open 1-4



ALBANY - NEW LISTING! **\$799,000**
4 UNITS - Front 2 bedroom, 1.5 bathroom house with two attached studios and one detached cottage.
844 Talbot Avenue Open 2-4:30



OAKLAND **\$239,000**
2/1 - Cute and affordable starter home with beautiful, fenced, enchanting garden. Attached garage with ample storage. Yard includes a working well.
489 Clara Street Open 1:30-4:30



BERKELEY **\$678,910**
5/3 - Golden Gate views, light and space in a 50's Contemporary atop Grizzly Peak. Two levels, 2 fireplaces, huge rec room, workshop/expansion space.
950 Creston Road Open 2-4:30



BERKELEY **\$548,000**
2+1.5 - Stylish and dramatic! Near Monterey Market. The custom designed kitchen with vaulted ceilings leads to a large sunny deck and yard.
1348 Sacramento Street Open 2-4:30



EL CERRITO **\$849,000**
3/3 - Beautiful tri-level Contemporary with Wildcat Canyon views. Remodeled baths and gourmet kitchen, family room, den, workshop and decks. Stunning and serene.
1024 Leneve Place Open 2-4:30



OAKLAND **\$370,000**
LOFT - In courtyard setting. Exciting three-story unit with level-in flex space. Living area with private balcony. Skylights and rooftop views. 1,630 square feet.
2932 Filbert Street #2 Open 2-4

BERKELEY **\$875,000**
3+2 - Unique Contemporary with spectacular panoramic Bay views from every window. Serene garden settings.
987 Euclid Avenue Open 2-4

BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! **\$559,000**
2+1.5 - Fabulous country setting. Indoor/outdoor living, remodeled kitchen & baths, plus room for beautiful office. Much more!
667 Vistamont Avenue Open 2-4:30

EL CERRITO - NEW LISTING! **\$399,000**
3+1.5 - Wonderful, desirable, quiet neighborhood. Near BART. On a huge lot. Two-car garage.
912 Everett Street Open 2-4

PIEDMONT - NEW LISTING! **\$849,000**
3/2+ - First time on market in 25+ years. 2-story Traditional with Craftsman details in great location! Fireplace, updated kitchen.
1047 Raleigh Way Open 2-4

BERKELEY **\$535,000**
TRIPLEX - Great campus location! Two 3/1, one 1/1 Victorian is zoned R-4 on 7,500 sq. ft. lot & is prime for development. Victorian next door is also for sale!

BERKELEY **\$825,000**
7 UNITS - Well-built 60's building in top N. Berkeley location - close to Shattuck shops, UC, Solano. 2 back units have large decks, front unit is 2-story townhouse style.

EL CERRITO **\$495,000**
2+1 - Sparkling split-level with detached guest cottage/office in a quiet, desirable neighborhood. Near the Albany border. For more information: www.bobblumberg.com

BERKELEY **\$799,000**
4+1+ - Spectacular 3-story Victorian. Spacious mini mansion with original architectural details, country kitchen & G.G. views from atelier. Needs TLC.

BERKELEY **\$950,000**
3+2.5 - Dramatic view Contemporary in best location! Open floorplan, panoramic views, Indian Rock Park at doorstep. Soaring cedar entry, updated kitchen/bath, more!

EL CERRITO **\$489,000**
4/2 - Nested in the foothills, this home has a small study and a rumpus room with fireplace & wet bar. Partial view of San Francisco from the kitchen.

BERKELEY **\$549,000**
2/2 - Quintessential Artist's retreat near Berkeley Bowl; skylights, leaded glass, hand tiling; French doors lead from a remodeled kitchen to private garden.

BERKELEY **\$757,000**
2 Units, one 3/2 & one 2/1 plus exceptional 2,885 sq. ft. workshop. Live/work near 4th Street shops and restaurants. 5,685 square feet total. Vintage detail throughout.

KENSINGTON **\$559,000**
4/2 - 40's home with hardwood floors, new paint, new carpet and City lights! Kensington schools. Close to transportation & shops. More @ www.justsellmyhouse.com

OAKLAND **\$775,000**
10 UNITS - Nine spacious 2/1 units and one 3/2 unit. All separately metered for water, gas and electric. Set your own rental Great North Oakland location.

OAKLAND **\$559,000**
4/2.5 - Unique tri-level home on a quiet street in a nice neighborhood. Beautiful backyard with a creek running through it.

OAKLAND **\$445,000**
4+2.5 - Spacious two-story Laurel home. Close to shops, freeway access and BART. New paint, new carpet. Nice floorplan. Move-In condition!

1891 Solano Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707
510.527.3387

2983 College Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705
510.849.9990

2099 Pleasant Valley
Oakland, CA 94611
510.292.2000

publish 8/8/03

House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section first!

NEW LISTING! OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2-5 PM



74 Entrada Avenue, Oakland

Sunny Craftsman on coveted street! 2 bedroom, 1 bath bungalow with original details - hardwood floors, built-ins. Updated kitchen opens to private garden. One block to popular Piedmont Avenue cafes, theater and shops.



Offered at \$579,000

Christian Downer
Senior Sales Associate
510.338.1340



just ask our clients

pacunion.com

NEW LISTING! OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30 TRADITIONAL HOME WITH ROOMS TO SPARE!

OFFERED FOR 1ST TIME IN OVER 30 YEARS



WELL & BENNETT REALTORS



KEVIN P. KENNEDY
(510) 531-7000 ext. 204

482 JEAN STREET, OAKLAND

Spacious three bedroom, two bath home including master bedroom suite with large living room and formal dining room. Additional plus rooms in the full basement. The large yard with playhouse makes this a very desirable property.

Offered at \$550,000

OPEN HOMES

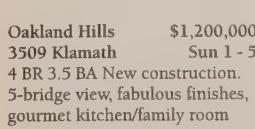
Montclair \$1,780,000
6260 Fairlane Dr Sun 2 - 5
5 BR 3 BA Stunning and sophisticated home w/SF, Bay & Bridge views! Amenities galore!
Andy Usher 510.339.4700



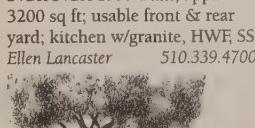
Claremont \$1,349,000
49 Evergreen Sun 2 - 4:30
4 BR 2.5 BA New construction! Level back yard, filtered Bay view, fabulous finishes, gourmet kitchen.
David Eckert 510.339.4700



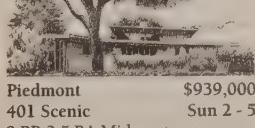
Crocker Highlands \$1,250,000
1278 Sunnyhills Rd Sun 2 - 5
Tudor revival; 3+BR 2BA; leaded glass, French drs, beam ceiling; room used as home theater
Ellen Lancaster 510.339.4700



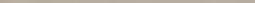
Oakland Hills \$1,200,000
3509 Klamath Sun 1 - 5
4 BR 3.5 BA New construction. 5-bridge view, fabulous finishes, gourmet kitchen/family room combo.
Preston Grant 510.339.4700



Claremont Hills \$945,000
6826 Sherwick Dr. Sun 2 - 5
3+BR 3+BA 1999 built; appx 3200 sq ft; usable front & rear yard; kitchen w/granite, HWF, SS
Ellen Lancaster 510.339.4700



Piedmont \$939,000
401 Scenic Sun 2 - 5
3 BR 2.5 BA Mid-century, custom designed Contemp. Level-in, lovely tree-studded site.
Darcy Diamantine 510.339.4700



COLDWELL BANKER

www.CaliforniaMoves.com

Berkeley 510.486.1495 • Oakland 510.339.4700

OPEN HOMES

Oakmore \$925,000
2309 Bywood Dr. Sun 2 - 5
4 BR 3.5 BA Classic Mediterranean w/bridge & Bay views, random plank floors, FDR, updated kitchen.
Karyn Selby-Miller 510.339.4700

Crocker \$725,000
673 Arimo Ave Sun 2 - 4:30
3+BR 3 BA Sunny 1922 Tradit. Nice ceiling details; HWF, master suite, fam rm, EZ commute.
Terry Anthony 510.339.4700

Montclair \$699,000
7145 Homewood Sun 2 - 5
3 BR 3 BA Custom Contemp. Soaring ceiling, LR w/FP, raised DR; FamRm, HWF, level patio, 2-car gar.
Ruby Ng 510.339.4700

\$595,000
739 Grizzly Peak Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA Fabulous SF Bay view. Large living room w/cathedral ceiling, gleaming HWF, FDR, easy floorplan, garage/inside access, sweet yard.
Diana Kay 510.486.1495

Montclair \$569,000
475 Mountain Blvd. Sun 2 - 5
2 BR 2 BA Single level living w/easy in/outdoor access. Hdwd floors, dual-pane windows, patio, yard
Ellen Lancaster 510.339.4700

Oakland Hills \$499,000
4400 Terrabella Sun 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2.5 BA Light & bright home close to shopping & swim/tennis club. Easy commute to SF & Downtown.
Liat Bostick 510.339.4700

OPEN HOMES

Laurel \$429,000
2948 Florida Sun 2 - 5
2 BR 1 BA 1920's character intact! Pride of ownership, spacious & light, bonus rm/storage & lvl yd.
Rachel Baller 510.339.4700

South Berkeley \$399,000
1604 Ashby Sun 2 - 5
2 BR 1 BA Craftsman offering fine wood details, beautiful lead-glass cabinet doors, FDR.
Gary Robinson 510.339.4700

Laurel \$299,000
3060 Curran Ave Sat/Sun 1 - 5
2 BR 1 BA Lovely Traditional has spacious rooms, FDR, dual pane windows, oak floors & fenced yard.
George Karsant 510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT

Piedmont Pines \$799,000
4 BR 2.5 BA Spacious tri-level w/striking hearth wall in roomy living-dining room. Pretty parquet floors, home office near entry.
Lydia Nayo 510.339.4700

Berkeley \$625,000
598 Cragmont Ave. 3 BR 2 BA Total of 3BR/2BA incl. private bed & bath w/separate entry on lower level. Peaceful, sunny, with serene Bay view.
Holly Rose 510.486.1495

Rockridge (Upper) \$1,100,000
3 BR 3 BA Custom-built 1993. Quality & nice detail throughout. Large kitchen & family room; spa. Motivated seller.
Donald Coelho 510.339.4700

West Oakland \$499,950
2+BR 3 BA Wonderful home w/lots of extras. Landscaped yard; studio w/sep. entrance; gourmet kitchen, bonus room, study & workshop.
Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700

COLDWELL BANKER
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

MORTGAGE RATES

15 YEAR FIXED		30 YEAR FIXED		30 YEAR FIXED	
RATE	APR	RATE	APR	RATE	APR
5.75%	5.781%	6.375%**	6.394%	7.00%	7.00%

*7.78% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years. Loan-to-value of 80% required.
**7.81% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years. Maximum loan-to-value of 80% required. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$322,700 is approximately \$2,690 minimum loan amount \$100,000. Higher rates apply for loans with higher LTV ratios.

***7.00% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$322,700 loan amount and includes points. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to change.

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*****7.00% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$

WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

1034 Masonic Av - \$400,000
905 Peralta Av - \$670,000

BERKELEY

1729 6th St #2 - \$340,000
1805 6th St - \$710,000
3408 California St - \$510,000
3111 College #C - \$312,000
60 Florida Av - \$635,000
1829 Harmon St - \$235,000
1026 Hearn Av - \$360,000
1600 Kains Av - \$600,500
1626 Kains Av - \$535,000
2043 Lincoln St - \$750,000
1521 McGee Av - \$701,000
815 Peralta Av - \$501,000
1541 Portland Av - \$708,000
2419 Roosevelt Av - \$737,000
2899 Shasta Rd - \$802,000
2615 Telegraph 401 - \$429,500

51 Tunnel Rd - \$894,000
1801 University 307 - \$290,000
2303 Virginia 3 - \$395,000
1736 Ward St - \$510,000

EL CERRITO

7809 Eureka Av - \$412,000
1116 Navelier St - \$450,000
611 Richmond St - \$415,000
2225 Spyglass Ln - \$625,000

See SALES, Page B14

Find Out What Your Home is Worth On-Line visit:
www.PiedmontHomeValue.com

Agent, RE/MAX

ALBANY

979 Cornell Av - \$610,000

The GRUBB Co.



45 Inverleith Terrace, Piedmont

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Exquisite! Totally remodeled with impeccable taste, highest quality and understated elegance. Comfortable one level traditional with three bedrooms, two and one half baths, family room, chef's kitchen and more. This is a beautiful home!

Offered at \$1,399,000

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- Completely renovated
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Original built-in cabinets • New kitchen with granite counters and gas Wedgwood stove • New bathroom fixtures including pedestal sinks • New brick courtyard with new fence • Formal and spacious floor plan • Original crystal chandeliers • Just minutes from BART and Market Hall

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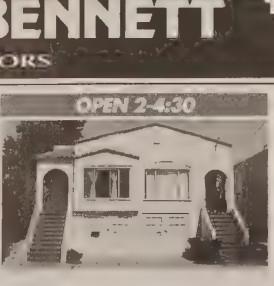
OPEN 2-4:30

OPEN 2-4:30

OPEN 2-4:30

BY APPOINTMENT

BY APPOINTMENT



TWO HOUSES ON ONE LOT

\$399,000

North Oakland. Two 2 bedroom houses with eat-in kitchen, one with bonus rooms, yard and off street parking, 45th Street near BART. Stan Hammond 531-7000x246

BUYING OPPORTUNITY \$224,000
Oakland. Starter two bedroom cottage with new carpets, fridge, stove, washer and dryer. Sunny backyard for roses and veggies. Seller provides termite clearance. Don Dunning 531-7000x239

LAND

CLAREMONT HILLS VIEW LOT

\$399,000

This lot is ready for your new home, easy & close access freeway set up and away with a private out look toward the city and bay. Heidi Kearsley 531-7000x295

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME...

\$295,000

...on this double size downslope with magnificent views. Soil and survey available. Carol Robbiani 531-7000x292

VIEW LOT

\$185,000

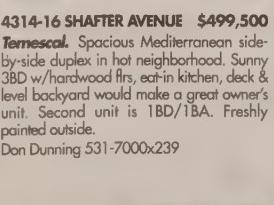
Large lot slight upslope, next to \$1,000,000 homes. Off Joaquin Miller Rd. Anne Bruff 531-7006x283

THANK YOURSELF LATER!

\$50,000-\$60,000

Build your dream home(s) in this quiet and serene neighborhood. Two upslope lots side-by-side. Off of Shephard Canyon Rd., (across from 6565 Girvin Dr.) Buy one or both!

Kevin P. Kennedy 531-7000x204



IMMACULATE CONDO

\$289,000

Adams Point. 2BD/1BA in pristine condition. New appliances, unit totally upgraded with new fixtures. Remodeled kitchen & bath, new carpet & fresh paint. Pleasant views.

Patsy Buhler 531-7000x238

VICTORIAN DUPLEX \$329,000
East Oakland. Level fenced yard, both units are two bedrooms, one vacant. Needs work.

Anne Bruff 531-7006x283

Victorian 4-PLEX \$530,000
North Oakland/Emeryville Border. Large 2BD units, and three 1BD units. Beautiful original details. Stained glass windows, hardwood floors with inlays, grand semi-spiral oak staircase in entrance hallway.

Frank Hennefer 654-6461



IMMACULATE CONDO

\$289,000

Adams Point. 2BD/1BA in pristine condition. New appliances, unit totally upgraded with new fixtures. Remodeled kitchen & bath, new carpet & fresh paint. Pleasant views.

Patsy Buhler 531-7000x238



www.wellsandbennett.com

Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B15.

JUST SOLD BY BECKY AND NANCY



2155 Trafalgar Place

A sweet hideaway with pride of ownership, featured two bedrooms and one bath with large formal spaces. The garden and patio with outdoor fireplace enhanced entertaining possibilities. Offered at \$519,000

In today's market, homes such as this one that are well maintained and priced appropriately are still selling at a brisk pace, often with more than one offer. If you are thinking about selling and want to receive the help you need and the attention you deserve, call Becky and Nancy today.



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Nancy Dickey, CRS

510-339-4716

dickey@dsp.com

SOLED



2102 Magellan Drive, Oakland

Originally Offered at \$1,199,500
Represented The Seller



Ruby Ng, CRS

510/339-4779

rubyn.com

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

OPEN SUN AUGUST 10 1:00-5:00 P.M.

NEW LISTING



5150 Golden Gate Avenue

Charming Upper Rockridge home in a lovely neighborhood. Newly remodeled eat-in kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, study and sunroom. Large formal dining room, spacious living room with fireplace. Pristine condition. Views.

\$949

JERILYN BABINGTON

COLDWELL BANKER

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(510) 547-1615



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NEW LISTING



24 Greenbank Avenue, Piedmont

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Handsome shingle style home on a large level plot with wonderful garden! Lovely living room and beautifully detailed dining room, sitting room, updated kitchen and fabulous family room lead to the garden. Three plus bedrooms/two and one half baths and sunroom.

Offered at \$1,185,000

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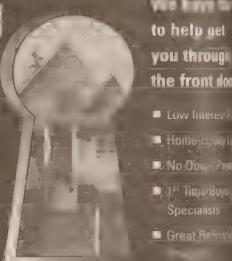


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Report Within 24 Hours of Closing

Letter for Offer

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455 Hudson Street, Oakland
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4 bedroom plus office, 2 bathrooms. Master bedroom has French doors leading to a wrap-around balcony. Formal dining room with built-in buffet, living room with wood burning fireplace. Box beam ceilings in living & dining room. 6 ft. high natural wood wainscoting, hardwood floors with original inlaid designs around the edges. Natural wood exposed beam cathedral ceilings in all upstairs rooms. Eat-in kitchen with greenhouse window. English country-style garden in front yard.

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BERKELEY \$4,200,000	MAKE OFFER	BERKELEY \$1,000,000	MAKE OFFER
24+ UNITS IN NORTH BERKELEY North Berkeley Bld building complex. Minutes by walking to BART! MAKE AN OFFER. All offers considered BE CREATIVE. Call		BERKELEY 6-LINK APARTMENT 6-2BD UNITS ALL VACANT	
BERKELEY \$749,000	MAKE OFFER	After recently completed lots of remodel type work. Property shows extremely well. A need chiller. Call us today for information on this 6-2-BEAUTY	
6-Units in 2 Buildings. Nice unit mix. Good sized lot. Some separation in meters. Nearby to Ashby BART & Berkeley's Historic Loft District		HAYWARD \$480,000	MAKE OFFER
CALL TODAY!		4BD 3BA home. 2-car garage. Near BART shopping, schools. Aprox. 12 years young. A real pride of ownership home shows excellent! Call today!	
BERKELEY \$540,000	MAKE OFFER	NORTH OAKLAND \$850,000	MAKE OFFER
NORTH BERKELEY LIVE INCOME. TRIPLEX in two separate buildings. Prime location facing two streets. Duplex and detached cottage.		Commercial w/ 4 retail stores, large corner of w/ high VISIBILITY & high TRAFFIC count. Currently: Cafe - Cleaners - Beauty Salon - Computer Tech	
Montgomery Market Acme Bakery/ Westbrooks. Ideal deal for Owner occupants. Call today!		Plenty of off street parking. Call on this wonder	

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES AVAILABLE - CALL TODAY!!!

BERKELEY \$1,000,000
BERKELEY 6-LINK APARTMENT 6-2BD UNITS ALL VACANT
After recently completed lots of remodel type work. Property shows
extremely well. A need chiller. Call us today for information on this 6-2-BEAUTY

HAYWARD \$480,000
4BD 3BA home. 2-car garage. Near BART shopping, schools.
Aprox. 12 years young. A real pride of ownership home shows
excellent! Call today!

NORTH OAKLAND \$850,000
Commercial w/ 4 retail stores, large corner of w/ high VISIBILITY
& high TRAFFIC count. Currently: Cafe - Cleaners - Beauty Salon - Computer Tech

Plenty of off street parking. Call on this wonder

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OAKMORE HIGHLANDS \$779,500
New opportunity of the week! Gorgeous home, chef's kitchen with space for guests to gather. Three bedrooms, 2 baths, huge family room. Private backyard with spa. French doors lead out from breakfast room & master suite.

ELEN NICHOLAS



EL CERRITO \$547,104
Near BART, freeways, shopping & the Bay - El Cerrito Hills - peak of the Bay view. Three bedrooms, 2 baths, family room with 2nd fireplace, patio, deck, lots of sunshine.

LOIS JOHNSON



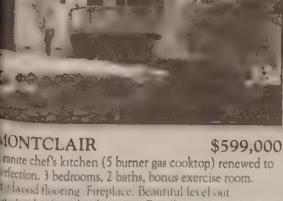
HILLER HIGHLANDS \$695,000
New listing! Lovely garden home, end unit with bay and greenbelt views. Huge decks. Spacious rooms with vaulted ceilings. Hardwood floors. Bonus room. Lots of sun. Walk to club. 2,023 sq. ft., 3+ bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths.

GAYLE TANTAU



MONTCLAIR \$989,000
Custom masterpiece! This spacious 5,400 sq. ft. home filled with elegant design & precision is nestled in the Montclair Hills. This dramatic home boasts 6+ bedrooms & 6 baths & is ideal for the large or extended family. Come enjoy the serene view and quality craftsmanship.

DON PETTEY



MONTCLAIR \$599,000
Great chef's kitchen (5 burner gas cooktop) renewed to perfection. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, bonus exercise room. Hardwood flooring. Fireplace. Beautiful level out patio. Stairs lead down from kitchen area. Excellent privacy/sunny. 2 to pest report.

HAL CASTLE



NORTH OAKLAND \$399,000
This 1915 Craftsman is a contractor's special with loads of potential in a charming North Oakland neighborhood. With four bedrooms, one and half baths, a grand parlor-size living room, a formal dining room and a huge country kitchen, you can turn this into a dream home. Shown by appointment only.

TOM ERWIN



DIMOND \$215,000
Why rent when you can own this two bedroom, one bath condo in a well-maintained security building. The east-facing deck offers privacy. This building has a handicap ramp, an elevator and private indoor parking.

TOM ERWIN



MONTCLAIR \$699,000
Imagine, English Country home. Incredible charm & beauty throughout. Level out patio, decking & garden. Bay views. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, formal dining, architectural magazine quality. One-owner home for 29 years. Unique opportunity.

HAL CASTLE



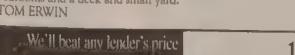
RICHMOND \$364,810
A "Berkeley" home, but for a lot less money! Two bedrooms, one bath, plus room, refinished hardwood floors, newer roof, fenced yard and more. Come see!

NICK LAVROV



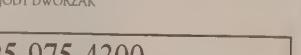
BERKELEY \$799,000
Great 4 units + 4 garages. Newly painted, low pest work. All units 1 bedroom, 1 bath - large rooms. Nice kitchens with eating area. Two units will be vacant at close of escrow.

KEVIN SKIPPER



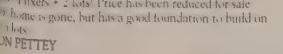
LAUREL \$295,000
Charming 2-story, two bedroom, two and one half bath townhouse in a gated garden complex. Amenities include: hardwood floors, a wood-burning fireplace with a custom mantle and hearth, in-unit laundry, cathedral ceilings in bedrooms and a deck and small yard.

TOM ERWIN



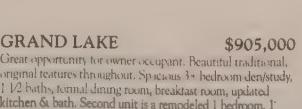
MAXWELL PARK \$395,000
1st time on the market in 30 years! Period details abound in this spacious Normandy home on Christmas Tree Lane. Spectacular living room with inviting inglenook and cathedral ceilings, large formal and informal dining rooms, well-manicured gardens. 4+ bedrooms, 2 baths.

JODY DWORZAK



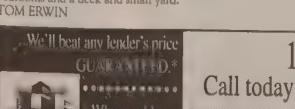
MONTCLAIR \$499,000
Great opportunity for owner-occupant. Beautiful traditional, original features throughout. Spacious 3+ bedrooms den/study, 1 1/2 baths, formal dining room, breakfast room, updated kitchen & bath. Second unit is a remodeled 1 bedroom, 1 bath, non-conforming studio with a large backyard.

DON PETTEY



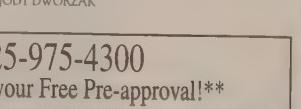
GRAND LAKE \$905,000
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Sales

FROM PAGE B11

EL SOBRANTE

545 Chabre Ct - \$290,000
 5480 Deer Run Dr - \$444,000
 709 Del Valle Cr - \$223,500
 2491 Diane Dr - \$356,000
 4769 Hilltop Dr - \$380,000
 4360 Jana Vista Rd - \$411,500
 1286 Raton Ct - \$346,000
 4341 SP Dam Dr - \$750,000
 5441 SP Dam Rd - \$200,000
 5451 Sobrante Av - \$395,000

EMERYVILLE

1200 65th 202 - \$465,000
 1244 65th St - \$492,500
 1246 65th St - \$411,500
 1252 65th St - \$512,500
 1258 65th St - \$475,000
 1269 65th St - \$372,500
 6 Commodore C342 - \$193,000
 6 Emery Bay Dr - \$350,000
 5855 Horton 501 - \$399,000

KENSINGTON

226 Arlington Av - \$615,000
 291 Lake Dr - \$635,000
 207 Stanford Av - \$575,000

OAKLAND

1900 105th Av - \$295,000
 816 22nd St #1 - \$200,000

748 29th St - \$285,000
 2005 36th Av - \$289,000

1814 41st Av - \$280,000
 831 51st St - \$355,000

1070 54th Av - \$445,000
 736 58th St - \$275,000

776 60th St - \$244,000
 2521 62nd Av - \$264,000

1467 73rd Av - \$264,000
 1019 75th Av - \$213,000

2654 78th Av - \$230,000
 1257 79th Av - \$299,000

2021 7th Av - \$385,000
 1029 82nd Av - \$275,000

1209 84th Av - \$175,000
 2008 85th Av - \$280,000

1925 88th Av - \$270,000
 2000 89th Av - \$280,000

1530 96th Av - \$304,000
 1506 98th Av - \$266,000

359 98th Av - \$215,000
 2624 9th Av - \$390,000

398 Adams 101 - \$199,000
 258 Alvarado - \$1,870,000

675 Alvarado - \$763,000
 4180 Balfour Av - \$450,000

3039 Berlin Wy - \$425,000
 3080 Birdsall Av - \$435,000

6302 Broadway Tr - \$469,000
 5323 Broadway - \$745,500

7245 Buckingham - \$760,000
 2436 Burlington St - \$536,000

9944 C St - \$475,000
 240 Caldecott 107 - \$360,000

280 Caldecott 133 - \$379,000
 300 Caldecott 219 - \$380,000

5405 Carlton 201 - \$350,000
 1584 Chandler St - \$276,000

6100 Cheiton Dr - \$490,000
 2201 Church St - \$242,000

10966 Cliffand Av - \$650,000
 6182 Contra Costa - \$1,135,000

9290 Coral Rd - \$260,000
 8912 D St - \$239,000

9229 D St - \$255,000
 5712 E 15th St - \$275,000

1035 East 20th St - \$460,000
 2620 East 23rd St - \$15,000

2640 East 23rd St - \$205,000
 5606 Edgerly St - \$280,000

3918 Everett Av - \$679,000
 4614 Fairbairn Av - \$390,000

3015 Fruitvale Av - \$312,000
 4115 Gilbert St - \$587,000

3825 High St - \$285,000
 304 Hunter Av - \$310,000

6455 Irwin Ct - \$510,000
 1425 Lakeside 302 - \$240,000

200 Lakeside St - \$572,500
 200 Lakeside Dr - \$675,000

5227 Lawton Av - \$722,000
 3917 Lincoln Av - \$340,000

3878 Loma Vista - \$345,000
 2615 Madeline St - \$391,000

541 Mandana Bl - \$579,000
 5337 Manila Av - \$781,000

3042 Maple Av - \$362,000
 645 Mariposa Av - \$527,500

1558 Mountain Bl - \$625,000
 581 Mountain Bl - \$800,000

661 Nevada St - \$220,000
 8010 Ney Av - \$24,000

7033 Norfolk Rd - \$130,000
 567 Oakland Av - \$199,000

8201 Outlook Av - \$290,000
 4163 Park Bl - \$445,000

4381 Petting Av - \$488,000
 4624 Steel St - \$399,000

7710 Sunkist Dr - \$250,000
 8507 Thermal St - \$340,000

2017 Tiffin Rd - \$621,000
 674 Trestle Glen Pl - \$850,000

1612 Trestle Glen Rd - \$862,000
 3761 Victor Av - \$549,000

4415 Webster St - \$609,000
 5 W. Embarcadero 223 - \$212,000

3 W. Embarcadero 343 - \$195,000
 4541 West St - \$385,000

6459 Westover Dr - \$502,000

PIEDMONT

4780 Valpey Park Av - \$460,000
 144 Wildwood Gdns - \$1,502,000

RICHMOND

11 12th St - \$205,000
 118 15th St - \$550,000
 975 31st St - \$185,000
 796 34th St - \$270,000
 508 Alamo Av - \$500,000

435 Barrett Av - \$255,000
 5296 Buckboard - \$460,000
 1603 Burbeck Av - \$250,000
 2373 Bush Av - \$279,000
 5027 Clinton Av - \$316,000
 4026 Coleman Cr - \$560,000
 2410 Esmond Av - \$325,000
 605 Grandview - \$1,300,000
 321 Main Av - \$169,000
 1652 Mariposa St - \$277,500
 3320 McBryde Av - \$380,000
 3743 N. Stonegate - \$255,000
 1532 Palm Av - \$454,000
 2 Park Ct - \$235,000
 3909 Selma Grv - \$433,000
 3108 Sheldon Dr - \$369,000
 243 S. Harbour - \$285,000
 2320 Welcome Av - \$325,000
 23 West Chesley Av - \$145,000
 4702 Westwood Ct - \$360,000

By the numbers**ALAMEDA**

TOTAL SALES: 16
 LOWEST PRICE: \$234,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$825,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$452,188

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 3
 LOWEST PRICE: \$400,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$670,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$610,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$560,000

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 20
 LOWEST PRICE: \$235,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$894,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$547,750

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 4
 LOWEST PRICE: \$412,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$625,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$475,500

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 10
 LOWEST PRICE: \$200,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$750,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$379,600

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 9
 LOWEST PRICE: \$193,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$512,500
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$411,500
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$407,889

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 3
 LOWEST PRICE: \$200,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$750,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$379,600

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 91
 LOWEST PRICE: \$130,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,870,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$350,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$422,434

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 2
 LOWEST PRICE: \$460,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,502,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$981,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 26
 LOWEST PRICE: \$145,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,300,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$365,481

This list is provided by California Resource, a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource@aol.com. Call 209-365-6663.

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Rates as of 8/05/03

COMMENTS

COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock
AAA Mortgage 888-921-6200 DRE# 01096146	30-yr Fixed 5.875 1.000 6.980 ... 45	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.250 1.000 6.340 ... 45	101 ARM Jumbo 5.250 1.000 5.373 ... 45	5/1 ARM 4.250 1.000 4.414 ... 45
Access Banc Mortgage 800-661-2765 DRE# 00992684	30-yr Fixed 6.250 ... 000 6.312 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.625 ... 000 6.631 ... 30	Jumbo Special*	Jumbo Spec* 3 yr/yr ARM 4.125% 3.696 APR 1.45% FEE 5 yr/yr ARM 4.750% 3.833 APR 0.0% FEE Prepay & other restrictions may apply
Bank of America 877-68-FIXED DRE# 0081806	30-yr Fixed 6.500 ... 1.000 6.537 ... 60	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.125 ... 1.000 6.259 ... 30	3/1 ARM 3.875 ... 1.000 3.941 ... 30	3/1 ARM 4.250 ... 1.000 4.087 ... 30
Cal-State Funding 800-883-5363 DRE# 00744411	30-yr Fixed 6.125 ... 1.000 6.210 ... 45	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.625 ... 000 6.646 ... 45	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500 ... 1.000 4.590 ... 45	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.750 ... 1.000 3.840 ... 45
California Mtg. Advisors 888-CAL-REFI X600 DRE# 01170868	30-yr Fixed 6.375 ... 000 6.470 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.625 ... 000 6.666 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250 ... 0.000 3.785 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625 ... 0.000 4.662 ... 30
California Mortgage Mart 866-412-7852 DRE# 00406187	30-yr Fixed 6.375 ... 000 6.470 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.375 ... 000 6.450 ... 30	15-yr Fixed call*	15-yr Fwd Jumbo call*
CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DRE# 01170028	30-yr Fixed 5.875 ... 1.500 6.081 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.375 ... 1.000 6.500 ... 45	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.625 ... 1.000 3.731 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.375 ... 1.375 4.518 ... 30
ditech.com 800-395-1376 Doc# 01320400	30-yr Fixed 5.875 ... 2.000 6.186 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.625 ... 000 6.693 ... 30	15-yr Fixed call*	15-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.500 ... 000 6.595 ... 30
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 Doc# 06374741	30-yr Fixed 6.000 ... 2.000 6.216 ... 75	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.125 ... 1.250 6.334 ... 75	1-mo COFI ARM* 2.450 ... 1.000 2.497 ... 45	1-mo COFI ARM* 1.950 ... 0.000 2.340 ... 60
eSource Mortgage, Inc. 888-221-9787 Doc# 00132047	30-yr Fixed 6.000 ... 2.000 6.240 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.250 ... 0.000 6.450 ... 30	15-yr Fixed call*	Low rates with NO POINTS ALSO NO CLOSING COSTS AVAILABLE Pics. online @ www.esourcementmortgage.com
First Blackhawk Financial 925-548-3039 DRE# 01144055	30-yr Fixed 6.250 ... 0.000 6.340 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.500 ... 0.000 6.650 ... 30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 5.625 ... 0.000 5.760 ... 30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875 ... 0.000 4.000 ... 30
Golden Horizon Mortgage 877-414-8280 DRE# 01316554	30-yr Fixed 5.875 ... 2.000 6.135 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.000 ... 2.000 6.219 ... 30	15-yr Fixed call*	15-yr Fixed call*
Imperial Mortgage 800-961-2274 DRE# 01033992	30-yr Fixed 6.125 ... 1.000 6.309 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.250 ... 0.000 6.383 ... 30	15-yr Fixed call*	15-yr Fixed call*
Intercontinental Mortgage 800-948-6002 DRE# 01347152	30-yr Fixed 5.875 ... 0.000 6.047 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.000 ... 0.000 6.188 ... 30	15-yr Fixed call*	Call for great rates on other loan products. (800) 848-6002. Apply online http://www.intercontinentalmortgage.com
Lenders Northstar Mtg Grp 925-248-3960 DRE# 01345744	30-yr Fixed 6.125 ... 1.625 6.370 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.250 ... 1.875 6.467 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.250 ... 1.500 5.495 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 1.950 ... 1.000 2.147 ... 30
Matrix Investment Corp. 800-366-8916 Doc# 41301408	30-yr Fixed 5.750 ... 1.375 5.957 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.000 ... 1.880 6.159 ... 30	30-yr Fixed call*	Good & bad credit considered Brokers welcome! Visit us at www.matrixinvestmentcorp.com
Mortgage Broker Assoc. 877-887-7700 DRE# 01116614	30-yr Fixed 6.126 ... 0.750 6.303 ... 45	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.250 ... 0.375 6.332 ... 45	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.375 ... 0.875 3.438 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.750 ... 0.500 4.233 ... 30
Mortgage Market 800-857-5626 DRE# 00887562	30-yr Fixed 6.250 ... 0.000 6.344 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.625 ... 0.000 6.630 ... 30	15-yr Fixed call*	WOW!! Look at our Jumbo rates! We guarantee no balt & switch at closing
Northern Mutual Corp. 888-441-2600 DRE# 01243581	30-yr Fixed 6.250 ... 0.000 6.294 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.649 ... 0.000 6.722 ... 30	15-yr Fixed call*	WOW!! Look at our Jumbo rates! We guarantee no balt & switch at closing
Omni Funding Services 800-303-8887 DRE# 01183866	30-yr Fixed 6.125 ... 1.500 6.359 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.375 ... 1.500 6.568 ... 30	15-yr Fixed call*	Check our web site for more rates! We are committed to EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DRE# 01124581	30-yr Fixed 6.375 ... 0.000 6.484 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 7.125 ... 0.000 7.174 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000 ... 0.000 5.043 ... 30	Se Habla Espanol 100% purchase loans Credit Problems OK
Premier Mortgage Group 888-389-6633 DOC# 41303986	30-yr Fixed 6.250 ... 0.000 6.297 ... 30	30-yr Fwd Jumbo 6.625 ... 0.000 6.649 ... 30	7/1 ARM Jumbo 5.250 ... 0.000 5.454 ... 30	Get rates online at www.pmgmortgage.com Now open Saturdays 9-3, evenings until 8:00 pm. Purchases may be 1/8% lower
ProMortgage 877-552-2700 DRE# 01203152	30-yr Fixed 5.875 ... 0.500 6.049 ... 30			

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Weekend OPEN HOMES

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Alameda

Alameda

335 Pacific Ave 2BD/1.5BA
 Sun 2-4 510-814-4887
 Bay Realty Ramon Dumaguil

1311 Webster E200 2BD/1BA
 Sun 2-4 510-945-0211
 Genital Helen Mai

5411 Wadean Place 3BD/1BA
 Sat 1-4 510-499-7852
 Realty Alan Gill

2101 Shoreline #478 2BD/1.5BA
 Sun 2-4 510-337-9413
 & Associates Alan Lertzman

2101 Shoreline Dr #280 2BD/1.5BA
 Sun 2-4 510-814-4832
 Bay Realty Jean Powers

1562 C Lincoln Ave 2BD/1BA
 Sun 2-4 510-610-5090
 & Associates Sally Han

3351 Solomon Lane 3BD/1.5 BA
 Sun 1-4 510-523-5273
 Bayway Real Estate Gregory & Tina Koubek

470 Cola Ballena 2BD/2BA
 Sun 2-4 510-814-4874
 Bay Realty Didi Dixon

1159 Verdeman 3BD/2.5BA
 Sun 2-4 510-814-4711
 Bay Realty Judy Jacobs

3149 Gilbert Lane 3BD/2.5BA
 Sun 2-4 510-523-4266/382-5323
 & Associates Angie Kim/Lena Sazo

3453 Oleander 3BD/2.5BA
 Sat & Sun 2-4 510-865-8564
 & Associates Lillian Silva

315 Central Ave 2BD/1BA
 Sun 2-4 510-682-6182
 will cooperate with brokers

315 Central Ave 2BD/1BA
 Sun 2-4 510-682-6182
 will cooperate with brokers

1007 Azalea Dr 3BD/2BA
 Sun 2-4 510-814-4872
 Realty Ginger Schuler

1422 Third St 2BD/2BA
 3-6 & Lindsey Darlene Gardner

753 Santa Clara 2BD/1.5BA
 2-4 510-748-5300
 & Team Central Alameda

1441 Sixth St 2BD/2BA
 2-4 510-685-0000
 & Lindsey Dennis Keefe

800 Central Ave 2BD/2BA
 2-4 510-748-1133
 & Lindsey Stephanie Neher

1523 Hight St 2+BD/1+BA
 2-4 510-337-0670
 CA Realty "Sam" McDowell

2951 Windsor Dr 2BD/2BA
 2-4 510-814-4811
 & Reality Fred Christensen

Albany

\$550,000 2951 Windsor Dr 2BD/2BA
 Open Sat 2-4 510-814-7110
 Harbor Bay Realty

\$559,000 2617 SAN JOSE AVE 2+BD/1½BA
 OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4 EAST END 510-612-6567
 AGENT

\$565,000 1036 Foster St 3BD/2.5BA
 Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4874
 Harbor Bay Realty Mark Playsted

\$569,000 3468 Catalina Ave 3BD/2.5BA
 Open Sun 2-4 HBI 925-736-7651/510-337-9413
 Kane & Associates Kathie Ng/Alan Lertzman

\$589,000 729 Baywood Rd 4BD/2.5BA
 Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4842
 Harbor Bay Realty Coly Centanni-Young

\$598,000 1819 Cambridge Dr. 3BD/1BA
 Corrected Price SAT/SUN 12-4 510-865-2827
 By Owner

\$630,000 124 Tynebourne Place 4BD/2BA
 Open Sun 1-30-430 Harbor Bay 510-483-1676
 Kane & Associates Krystyna Nowak

\$649,000 1372 Versailles 4BD/2BA
 Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-865-1635
 Kane & Associates Lois Hoffman

\$659,000 1030 Pacific Ave 3BD/2.5BA
 Open Sat & Sun 2-4:30 510-508-7999
 Alameda Realty Carol Burnett

\$675,000 1315 Santa Clara Ave 4+BD/2.5BA
 Open Sun 2-4 Gallagher & Lindsey Pacific Dinacinal

\$689,000 25 Courageous Court 2+BD/3.5BA
 Open Sun 2-4 Marina Village 510-531-2274
 Kane & Associates Wendy Sanda

\$695,000 2129 Lincoln Ave 3 units
 Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-748-1125 Troy Staten

\$709,000 1542 Pearl St 3+BD/2.5BA
 Open Sun 2-4 510-885-0000 Dennis Keefe

\$749,000 31 Kilkenney Place 3BD/2.5BA
 Open Sun 2-4 510-748-1114 Pres Ordinario

\$834,000 927 San Antonio 4BD/2BA
 Open Sun 2-4 510-523-0558/523-2314 Hanna Fry/Sally Rudolf

\$859,000 201 Sweet Rd 4BD/2.5BA
 Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-814-4892/814-4848 Eunice Edwards/Ringo Liu

\$950,000 54 Kilkenney Pl 5BD/3BA
 Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4710 Walt Jacobs

\$389,000 629 Jackson #A 3BD/2BA
 Open Sun 2-4 510-524-9888/12 Joan Brunswick

\$599,000 607 Santa Fe 3BD/2BA
 Open Sun 2-4 510-848-1950 X242 Kathryn Hill

\$575,000 2111 McGee Ave. 3BD/2.5BA
 Sat. & Sun. 12-4 510-251-6000 Help-U-Sell Eastbay

\$559,000 1348 Sacramento St 2BD/1BA
 Open Sun 2-4:30 510-280-2171 Jennifer Fickschener

\$559,000 667 Vistamont Ave 2+BD/1B
 Open Sun 2-4:30 510-280-2125 Kathy Nitsan

\$575,000 2111 McGee Ave. 3BD/2.5BA
 Sat. & Sun. 12-4 510-559-2910 Tony Wright

\$387,500 843 Elm St 2BD/1BA
 Open Sun 2-4 510-559-2910 Barbara Kaplan

\$105,000 533 Henry St 1st
 Open Sun 10-7 Prudential Scott Thompson

Berkeley

\$585,000 2621 Virginia St. 3+BD/1+BA
 Sun. 2-4:30 510-652-2133 Nacio Brown

\$599,000 1124 Woodside Rd. 3BD/2BA
 Open Sun 2-4:30 925-998-6197 Lou Rithaler

\$649,000 2401 Carlton St 3BD/2.5BA
 Open Sun 2-4:30 510-339-9290 Herb Manor

\$650,000 2635 & 2639 Benvenue Ave dpx
 Open Sun 1-4 Elmwood 510-868-1400 Prudential Eric Wong/Brenda Walker

\$678,910 950 Creston Rd 5BD/3BA
 Open Sun 2-4:30 510-292-2011 Tim Cassidy

\$685,000 1440 Queens Rd. 3BD/3BA
 Sun. 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Tricia Swift

\$699,000 142 Hillcrest Rd 3BD/2BA
 Open Sun 2-5 Claremont 510-968-5566 Julie Lehman

\$799,000 2252 Summer St 3+BD/3.5BA
 Open Sun 2-4:30 510-280-2141 Patti Jo Brennan

\$829,000 2574 Hilgard Ave. 4BD/3BA
 Sun. 2-4:30 510-652-2133 Donna Debardt

\$850,000 49 Vicente 2BD/2BA
 Sun. 2-5 510-338-1339 Gini Erck

\$875,000 1155 Glen Ave 3BD/3BA
 Open Sun 2-4 510-280-2159 Amanda Burton

\$875,000 987 Euclid Ave 3BD/2BA
 Open Sun 2-4 510-280-2115 Stan Montchay

\$1,195,000 2715 Shasta Ave. 5BD/3BA
 Sun. 2-4:30 510-338-1341 Leslie Avant

\$1,329,000 1418 Spruce St 5BD/5BA
 Open Sun 2-4:30 Re/Max East Bay Hills Dave Higgins

\$1,595,000 71 Roble Rd 4+BD/3.5BA
 Open Sun 2-5 Claremont Hills 510-428-0900 Scott Thompson

\$1,700,000 1138 Grandview Dr. 4BD/3.5BA
 Sun. 2-4:30 Claremont Hills Ronald Sterling Egberman

\$1,700,000 1138 Grandview Dr. 4BD/3.5BA
 Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. Ronald Sterling Egberman

\$1,849,000 4079 Happy Valley Road 4BD/3.5BA
 Open Sun 1-5 Coldwell Banker Jerilyn Babington

\$1,999,000 254 Yale Ave. 4BD/2BA
 Sun. 2-4:30 510-652-2133 Ruth Frassetto

\$2,199,000 272 Los Altos Dr 4BD/2BA
 Open Sun 1-4 510-868-1400 Candice

\$2,299,000 1027 47th St 4+BD/2.5BA
 Open Sun 2-5 510-868-1400 Candice

\$2,395,000 1020 Ridgeview Dr 4BD/2.5BA
 Open Sun 1-3 510-662-9532 Noreen Buller

\$2,499,000 1027 47th St 4+BD/2.5BA
 Open Sun 2-5 510-748-5300 Candice

\$2,619,000 269 Stanford Ave. 3BD/2BA
 Sun. 2-4:30 510-868-1777 Investment House Realty Agt. Jeannie Yeh

\$2,729,000 272 Los Altos Dr 4BD/2BA
 Open Sun 1-4 510-869-5096 Prudential

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Oakland			Oakland			Oakland			Oakland			Oakland		
\$185,000 155 Pearl St Unit 107 Open Sun 2-5 Adam Point Prudential	1BD/1BA 510-845-2010 Susan Alperstein		\$459,000 5615 Carberry Ave Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential	3BD/2BA 510-845-0211 L. Castillo		\$595,000 6885 Chabot Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Hills Realty	3BD/2BA 510-524-9889x1 Maya Trilling		\$875,000 1650 Trestle Glen Rd. Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	4+BD/3BA 510-339-0400 Judith Chase Cain		\$1,895,000 6033 Skyline Blvd. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	Montclair	
\$189,000 425 Orange St #215 Open Sun 1-4 Lake Merritt Prudential	1BD/1BA 510-868-1400 Jake InTigue		\$475,000 1486 Allman St. Sun. 2-4:30 Glenview Montclair Better Homes	2BD/1BA 510-339-4000 Ken Nwokolo		\$609,000 6388 Buena Ventura Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential	4BD/2.5BA 510-845-0211 Rita Harrington		\$879,000 5485 Taft Ave. Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3+BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Mavis Delacroix		\$419,000 1076 Alileen St. Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair Montclair Better Homes		
\$215,000 2901 MacArthur #204 Open Sun. 2-4:30 Dimond C21 Heritage	2BD/1BA 510-339-8900 Tom Erwin		\$479,000 1801 108th Ave Open Sun 2-4:30 Durant Manor Prudential Landmark Real Estate	3BD/1.5BA 510-731-1084 Bill Miller		\$610,000 4304 Webster St. Sun. 2-4:30 Wells & Bennett Realtors	4BD/1.5BA 510-531-7000 x227 Anne Manley		\$890,000 6866 Charing Cross Rd. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	5BD/4.5BA 510-652-2133 Helene Barkin		\$1,895,000 6033 Skyline Blvd. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	Montclair	
\$222,000 771 Kingston Ave. #206 Sun. 2-4:30 Piedmont Ave. 510-531-7000 x238 Wells & Bennett Realtors	1BD/1BA 510-292-2016 Patsy Buhler		\$479,000 3828 Glen Park Rd. Sun. 2-4:30 Wells & Bennett Realtors	3BD/1.5BA 510-531-7000 x242 Chris & Nancy		\$619,000 38 Rio Vista Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD 510-339-0400 Mavis Delacroix		\$899,000 661 Via Rialto Open Sun. 1-5 Oakland Hills C21 Heritage	4BD/3.8BA 510-339-8900 Diane Cota		\$419,000 1076 Alileen St. Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair Montclair Better Homes		
\$239,000 489 Clara St Open Sun 1:30-4:30 RED OAK Michael Margado	2BD/1BA 510-292-2016		\$489,000 3470 Margarita Ave Open Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills Re/Max East Bay Hills	3BD/2BA 510-636-0606 Wayne Wilkerson		\$630,000 6388 Buena Ventura Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential	4BD/2.5BA 510-845-0211 Tamara Nadarajah		\$925,000 2309 Bywood Dr. Sun. 2-5 Upper Oakmore	4BD/3.5BA 510-339-4700 Karyn Selby-Miller		\$1,895,000 6033 Skyline Blvd. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	Montclair	
\$255,000 1476 81st Ave. Sun. 1-4 Assist-2-Sell	3BD/2BA 510-530-6330 Howard Kane		\$489,000 3978 Lyman Rd. Sun. 2-5 Upper Dimond	2BD/1.5BA 510-338-1354 Pacific Union Real Estate		\$639,000 2413 Potomac St. First Reality	4BD/3BA 510-653-5586 Darrin Tinsley		\$929,000 5986 Buena Vista Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential	3BD/3.8BA 510-339-9290 Heidi Marchesotti		\$1,695,000 16 Oak Court Open Sun. 1-5 Coldwell Banker		
\$275,000 6211 Telegraph Ave #23 Open Sun 2-4:30 Berkeley Border Prudential	2BD/1.5BA 510-668-1419 Jürgen Aust		\$489,000 470 61st St Open Sun 2-4:30 The Homes-Link Team	2+BD/2.5BA No. Oakland		\$639,000 6218 Crown Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	2BD/2BA 510-339-0400 Anian Pettit Tunney		\$939,000 6500 Swainland Rd. Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4BD/2.5BA 510-339-4550 Nahid Nassir		\$585,000 641 Fairmount Ave. Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential		
\$289,000 280 Caldecott Ln Open Sun 2-5 Claremont Heights Prudential	1BD/1BA 510-845-0211 Andrea Arata		\$489,000 5290 Broadway Terrace Sun. 2-4:30 Rockridge	2BD/2.5BA 510-338-1368 Pacific Union Real Estate		\$650,000 1729 4th Ave Open Sun 1-4 Prudential	4units 510-520-5462 CP Yang-Looker		\$945,000 1024 Ardmore Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands	4+BD/3BA 510-339-9398 Ed Bell		\$699,000 6 Greenbank Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 Piedmont Montclair Better Homes		
\$289,000 3904 Suter St. Sun. 1-4:30 Laurel The Grubb Co.	2BD/1BA 510-339-0400 Bettina Balestrieri		\$489,000 4744 Stacy St. Sun. 2:30-4:30 Grass Valley	3BD/2BA 510-569-3499 Richardson R. E. Services		\$656,000 1833 Woodhaven Way Open Sun 2-5 Re/Max East Bay Hills	5BD/3.5BA 510-555-7699 Dave Higgins		\$945,000 6826 Sherwick Drive Sun. 2-5 Claremont Hills	3+BD/3.5BA 510-339-4700 Ellen Lancaster		\$649,000 1047 Ranleigh Wy Open Sun 2-4 RED OAK		
\$289,950 2985 School Open Sun 2-5 Coldwell Banker	2BD/1BA 510-339-4700 Reba Tolber		\$499,000 1126 Bella Vista Open Sun 2-5 Prudential	4BD/2BA 510-428-0900 Scott Thompson		\$659,000 901 Alma Pl. Sun. 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands	3+BD/1+BA 510-338-1379 Steven Bisatti		\$945,500 1907 Oakview Dr. Sun. 2-4:30 Oakmore	3BD/2+BA 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co.		\$1,185,000 24 Greenbank Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.		
\$295,000 3760 39th Avenue #K Open Sun. 2-4:30 Laurel C21 Heritage	2BD/1.5BA 510-339-8900 Tom Erwin		\$499,000 1555 Lakeside Dr #169 Open Sun 2-4:30 Lake Merritt	2BD/2.5BA 510-339-9290 Prudential Montclair		\$678,000 724 Arimo Ave Open Sun 2:30-4:30 Harbor Bay Realty	4+BD/2.5BA 510-814-4893 Kathy Bell-Mathy		\$979,000 #2 Neva Ct Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair	3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-9290 George Millions		\$1,350,000 126 Woodland Way Sun. 1:30-5 Pacific Union Real Estate		
\$299,000 3060 Curran Avenue Sat & Sun 1-5 Laurel Coldwell Banker	2BD/1.5BA 510-339-4700 George Karsant		\$499,000 4400 Terrabella Open Sun 2-4:30 Oakland Hills	3BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker		\$679,000 6679 Charing Cross Rd Open Sun 2-5 Hiller Highlands	3BD/2.5BA 510-555-7699 Dave Higgins		\$989,000 6501 Aitkin Open Sun 2-5 Montclair	6+BD/6BA 510-339-8900 x214 Don Pettry		\$1,399,000 45 Inverleith Terrace Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.		
\$339,000 6236 Laird Ave. Sun. 12-4 Help-U-Sell Eastbay	3BD/1BA 510-251-6148 Tony Wright		\$499,000 5833 Colton Blvd Open Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates	2BD/2BA 510-814-9035 Ken Ferrell		\$685,000 5985 Claremont Ave Open Sun 1-4 Maison Nouveau	3BD/2BA 510-849-9900 Heather Sittig		\$999,500 35 Agnes Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential	4BD/3.8BA 510-428-0900 Barbara Quaid		\$1,250,000 1129 Harvard Rd. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.		
\$349,000 2808 108th Ave. Open Sun 2-4 San Leandro Border Prudential	3+BD/2BA 510-206-6148 Whitney Nelson		\$499,000 6045 Buena Vista Open Sun 2-4:30 Millsmont	3+BD/3BA 510-834-2010 Prudential		\$688,000 5575 Florence Terrace Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair	3+BD/2.5BA 510-338-1314 Pacific Union Real Estate		\$1,079,000 10063 Broadway Terrace Open Sun 2-4 Prudential	4BD/3.5BA 510-339-9290 Bill Doyle		\$729,000 490 Western Dr Open Sun 1-4 Maison Nouveau		
\$370,000 2932 Filbert #2 Open Sun 2-4 RED OAK	1 lot 510-280-2105 Sara Garabedian		\$499,500 4314-16 Shafter Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 Temescal	Duplex 510-531-7000 x239 Wells & Bennett Realtors		\$690,000 5033 Crystal Ridge Ct Open Sun 2-4:30 Ridgegemont	3BD/2.5BA 510-339-9290 Prudential Montclair		\$1,149,000 1293 Sunnyhills Rd. Sun. 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands	4BD/2.5BA 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co.		\$729,000 490 Western Dr Open Sun 1-4 Maison Nouveau		
\$379,000 260 Caldecott Ln. #213 Sun. 2-4:30 Parkwoods The Grubb Co.	2BD/1.5BA 510-339-0400 Tricia Swift		\$525,000 4724 Davenport Ave Open Sun 1-5 Oakland Hills	4BD/2BA 510-482-6391 R.E. Agent		\$695,000 11 Spyglass Hill Open Sun. 2-4:30 Hiller Highlands	3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-0000 x260 C21 Heritage		\$1,180,000 7080 Westmoorland Dr. Sun. 2-4:30 Claremont Hills	4BD/3+BA 510-339-0400 Steve Michaelides		\$1,149,000 1919 Santa Clara St Open Sun 2-4:30 Thornwall Properties		
\$379,000 3772 Biel St Open Sun 2-5 Laurel Prudential	2+BD/1.5BA 510-428-0900 Bryan Salomone		\$525,000 77 Clarewood Ln. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	3BD/2.5BA 510-339-0400 Anian Pettit Tunney		\$699,000 5715 Florence Terrace Open Sun 2-5 Montclair	3+BD/2.5BA 510-338-1314 Pacific Union Real Estate		\$1,195,000 6151 Buena Vista Avenue Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4BD/3.5BA 510-339-4550 Nahid Nassir		\$335,000 1919 Santa Clara St Open Sun 2-4:30 Richmond Annex		
\$390,000 1971 89th Ave. Sun. 1-4 Assist-2-Sell	4BD/1.5BA 510-530-6330 Howard Kane		\$549,000 4134 Gilbert St. Sun. 2-4:30 Piedmont Ave.	2+BD/1.5BA 510-338-1348 Pacific Union Real Estate		\$705,000 7145 Homewood Open Sun 2-5 Montclair	3BD/3BA 510-339-9778 Ruby Ng		\$1,200,000 3509 Klamath Sun. 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker	4BD/3.5BA 510-339-4700 Preston Grant		\$359,988 6529 Hazel Open Sun 1-4 Security Pacific		
\$395,000 2534 Frances St. Sat. & Sun. 12-4 Help-U-Sell Eastbay	3BD/2BA 510-251-6000 Tony Wright		\$549,000 6440 Pinehaven Rd Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair	3+BD/3BA 510-339-9290 Prudential		\$725,000 673 Arimo Open Sun. 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands	3+BD/3BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker		\$1,225,000 6247 Acncl Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-4280 Glass/Sabine		\$364,810 658 32nd Street Open Sun. 2-5 C21 Heritage		
\$395,000 2918 Rawson Sun. 2-4:30 Maxwell Park Wells & Bennett Realtors	3BD/1.5BA 510-531-7000 x268 Heidi Tugge		\$550,000 18 Veteran Way Open Sun 2-4:30 Glenview/Diamond 510-524-9888 x13 Berkeley Hills Realty	2BD/1.5BA Peter Damm		\$740,000 16 Treasure Hill Open Sun. 1-4 Pointe Realty	2BD/2.5BA 510-547-4548 or 510-565-1513 Angie Pointe		\$1,245,000 195 Roble Rd Open Sun 2-5 Montclair	3+BD/2.5BA 510-845-0211 Ford/Plowright		\$469,988 5919 Clement Open Sun 1-4 Security Pacific		
\$399,000 1604 Ashby Open Sun 2-5 Laurel Coldwell Banker	2BD/1.5BA 510-339-4700 Gary Robinson		\$550,000 482 Jean St. Sun. 2-4:30 Grand Lake	3BD/2.5BA 510-531-7000 x204 Wells & Bennett Realtors		\$749,000 4161 Balfour Avenue Sun. 2-5 Crocker Highlands	5+BD/2.5BA 510-339-4557 Jack Bremmer		\$1,250,000 2324 22nd St Open Sun 2-4:30 Harbor Bay Realty			\$335,000 1919 Santa Clara St Open Sun 2-4:30 Thornwall Properties		
\$399,000 4063 Maple Ave Open Sun 2-4:30 Laurel Prudential Montclair	2BD/2.5BA 510-339-9290 Mary Dresser		\$555,000 598 Crestmont Drive Open Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Heights	4BD/2.5BA 510-339-4000 Montclair Better Homes		\$749,900 2177 Trafalgar Place Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair	5BD/3BA 510-834-4260 Landmark Associates		\$1,260,000 3509 Klamath Sun. 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker	4BD/3.5BA 510-339-4700 Preston Grant		\$359,000 420 Mitchell Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 Security Pacific		
\$399,000 7917 Outlook Ave Open Sun 1-4 1-800-347-1356 X 2107 Prudential CA Realty	3BD/2.5BA 510-280-2107 Reina & Isabel Soto		\$565,000 737 Second St #401 Open Sun 2-4:30 Kame & Associates	Loft 510-882-4425 Tisa BeenePP		\$755,000 7227 Skyline Blvd Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair	3+BD/3.5BA 510-339-9290 Prudential		\$1,275,000 6247 Acncl Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-4280 Glass/Sabine		\$425,000 2062 Miramonte Avenue Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Better Homes		
\$399,900 180 Caldecott Lane #313 Open Sun 2-5 Steve Mohseni RE/MAX Accord	2 bd / 2 ba 925-580-8011 Jeffrey Himmel		\$569,000 475 Mountain Blvd. Sun. 2-5 Montclair	2BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker		\$765,000 4066 Oakmore Road Open Sun. 1-3:30 Oakmore	3BD/2.5BA 510-339-6100 x238 C21 Heritage		\$1,285,000 195 Roble Rd Open Sun 2-5 Montclair	3+BD/2.5BA 510-845-0211 Ford/Plowright		\$525,000 688 Cary Drive Open 1-4 Deadrich RE Melissa, Agt.		
\$405,000 389 42nd St Open Sun 2-4:30 Temescal	2+BD/1.5BA 510-339-9290 Brian Santillo		\$575,000 3934 Elston Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 Lee Jacobson	2+BD/2.5BA 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co.		\$775,000 4640 Longcroft Dr. Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4+BD/3BA 510-338-1353 Chuck Corwin		\$1,295,000 1278 Sunnyside Road Sun. 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands	3+BD/2.5BA 510-339-4700 Ellen Lancaster		\$608,888 1517 Discovery Rd Open Sun 2:30-4:30 Walnut Creek		
\$425,000 3820 Enos Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 Laurel Pacific Union Real Estate	2+BD/1.5BA 510-338-1309 Lee Jacobson		\$579,000 484 Crescent Sun. 2-5 Grand Lake	3+BD/1.5BA 510-338-1307 Jeffrey Himmel		\$775,000 455 Hudson St. Sun. 1-4pm Rockridge G.M. Green & Assoc., Inc.	4BD/2.5BA 510-923-6999X5 Shirley Golub		\$1,305,000 152 Taurus Ave. Sun. 2-4:30 Claremont Heights	5BD/3.5BA 510-925-9418 Doris Taboloff		\$467,000 1934 Murphy Dr. Sat. & Sun. 12-4 Help-U-Sell Eastbay		
\$427,000 3344 Florida St. Open Sun 1-4 Agent	3BD/1.5BA 510-452-4444 Rachel Baller		\$579,000 74 Entrada Ave. Sun. 2-5 Piedmont Ave.	2BD/1.5BA 510-338-1340 Pacific Union Real Estate		\$779,000 6553 Heather Ridge Way Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4BD/2.5BA 510-652-2133 Carolyn Jones		\$1,305,000 60 Westminster Dr. Sun. 2-4:30 Claremont Pines	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Linda McClain		\$467,000 1934 Murphy Dr. Sat. & Sun. 12-4 Help-U-Sell Eastbay		
\$429,000 2948 Florida Open Sun 2-5 Laurel Coldwell Banker	2BD/1.5BA 510-339-4700 Howard Kane		\$579,000 8040 Phaeton Dr. Sun. 2-4:30 Sequoyah	4BD/2.5BA 510-569-3499 Richardson R. E. Services		\$779,000 6553 Heather Ridge Way Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4BD/2.5BA 510-652-2133 Carolyn Jones		\$1,305,000 7070 Norfolk Sun. 2-4:30 Oakland Hills	5BD/4.5BA 510-338-1357 Francis Heath		\$469,000 626 La Cosa Open Sun 2-4:30 Bancroft Village		
\$435,000 3240 Peralta St #5 Open Sun 2-4:30 RED OAK	loft 510-280-2107 Virginia Perl		\$589,900 8040 Phaeton Dr. Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	4BD/2.5BA 510-569-3499 Georgia Richardson		\$779,000 6553 Heather Ridge Way Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair	4BD/2.5BA 510-652-2133 Carolyn Jones		\$1,305,000 6265 Grizzly Peak Blvd. Sun. 2-5 Montclair	5BD/3.5BA 510-339-4700 Andy Usher		\$467,000 1934 Murphy Dr. Sat. & Sun. 12-4 Help-U-Sell Eastbay		
\$445,000 3320 Peralta St #5 Open Sun 2-4:30 RED OAK	loft 510-280-2107 Roxann Bruns		\$595,000 3921 Maybell Ave. Open Sun 2-4:30 Better Homes Realty	3BD/2.5BA 510-206-1753 Lyne Hildebrand		\$779,000 6969 Snake Road Sun. 10-2 Montclair	3BD/2.5BA 510-303-3010 Coldwell Banker		\$1,305,000 6265 Grizzly Peak Blvd. Sun. 2-5 Montclair	5BD/3.5BA 510-339-4700 Andy Usher		\$469,000 626 La Cosa Open Sun 2-4:30 Bancroft Village		
\$450,000 3820 Delmont Ave Open Sun 2-4:30 Keller Williams	3BD/2.5BA 510-869-5609 Howard Kane		\$595,000 432 37th St. Sun. 2-4:30 Wells & Bennett Realtors	4Plex North Oakland 510-531-7006 x258 Catherine Valley		\$785,000 6055 Grizzly Peak Blvd. Open Sun 2-5 Wells & Bennett Realtors								

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Oakland

\$155,000 3233 Monterey Blvd. Large wooded lot w/ views next to very quiet street. Good 8th. lots to be sold together details! Kathy 510-814-4705

Berkeley

\$299,000 3107 Ellis St. SAT 2-4. Charming 2bd, 1ba, sun lined street. Good size claw-foot tub, basement storage 2 car garage. Chuck 4847

Castro Valley

\$388,000 8041 Greenly Dr. Secluded Keller area. French Country single level home w/ 2nd flr. wood floors, and fireplaces inside and out. Move-in condition! Donnali 510-814-4826

PENDING

\$360,000 1426 MacArthur Blvd. Glenview District. Completely remodeled inside & out. 2+1, 1BA, partial view of SF and Oakland. EZ access to freeway. Elaine 510-814-4835

PENDING

\$425,000 744 26th St. 3 unit style report available, 510-814-4706

PENDING

\$499,000 3231 Monterey Blvd. Fabulous Bay view! 2 BA home! Large deck replaces Needs a little work. As is sale Steve Sorenson 510-814-4888

PENDING

\$649,000 1002 Bella Vista Ave. 4-plex! Historic craftsman. 2 Units added art studio on one parcel. So. San Fran Margaret 510-814-4826

SOLD

\$678,000 724 Arivo Ave. OPEN SUN 2:30-4:30. Spacious Crocker Highlands 4 BD, 2 BA craftsman w/ formal dining room, finished basement, bonus room, tons of storage, and hardwood floors. Donnali 510-814-4826 Virtual Tour on hbrhomes.com

PENDING

\$585,000 663 Greylawn Dr. 2.5 BA family home w/ Custom built-ins, entertainment and custom office. Darlene 510-814-4840

PENDING

\$429,000 541 Callan Ave. one lot dining fire garage 2 BR/2 BA

PENDING

\$539,000 2324 22nd St. Potrero Sun 2-4. 1 level Mediterranean BA, remodeled kitchen, natural wood built-ins, updated bathroom wistrage. Chuck 510-814-4840

PENDING

\$550,000 2324 22nd St. Potrero Sun 2-4. 1 level Mediterranean BA, remodeled kitchen, natural wood built-ins, updated bathroom wistrage. Chuck 510-814-4840

San Ramon

MONTCLAIR

Stunning 5yr. old contemp. Open floor plan. 3BR/2BA, kit/fam rm combo, full light, yard. Michelle Miller 510-814-4840

BERKELEY

Extraordinary design by architect Jack Hillmer, lovingly rebuilt & open, natural, understated. SeeMore @pacunion.com. Gini Erd

CLAREMONT HILLS LOT

Large lot w/plans for 5637 sq. ft. Phillip Perkins. Borders an undeveloped lot. David Ichikawa 510-814-4840

MONTCLAIR

Quality classic contemporary w/ big 3+BR/3BA, versatile rec room/office to Regional Parks. Joan E. Hause 510-814-4840

FRUITVALE

New Listing! Meticulously maintained 4-plex on quiet cul-de-sac. Spacious 2BR units. Hardwood floors, central air, parking, lush landscaping. Adjacent 4-plex below. Steven Biasatti x1379

MONTCLAIR

Charming Spanish Mediterranean 1+BA, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, pond w/waterfall & so much more. Michelle Miller x1335

SAN LEANDRO

New Listing! Pristine 4-plex. All 1+BA, hardwood floors, enclosed balcony, some skylights. Covered laundry & garden. Adjacent to above. Steven Biasatti x1379

FRUITVALE

New Listing! Pristine 4-plex. All 1+BA, hardwood floors, enclosed balcony, some skylights. Covered laundry & garden. Adjacent to above. Steven Biasatti x1379

OAKLAND HILLS

Charming Spanish Mediterranean 1+BA, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, pond w/waterfall & so much more. Michelle Miller x1335

PIEDMONT

Newly built, super chic contemporary. Custom details & inviting spaces open to lab SF views. 4BR/3.5BA. David Ichikawa x1331

UPPER ROCKRIDGE

\$1,795,000 New construction! Classic Mark Becker designed home. 4+BR/3.5BA, crafts room, wine cellar, master BR w/fireplace, hardwood, granite, 4000+ sq. ft. James Duffy x1326

MONTCLAIR

\$1,675,000 Newly built, super chic contemporary. Custom details & inviting spaces open to lab SF views. 4BR/3.5BA. David Ichikawa x1331

OAKLAND HILLS

\$1,030,000 New Listing! One of 10 homes under construction on a cul-de-sac. Bay views, 4+BR/3.5BA, custom touches, gourmet kitchen w/custom cabinetry. David Ichikawa x1331

PIEDMONT

\$895,000 Central to Elmwood, Claremont & Rockridge. Handsome 3+BR home w/2nd floor, large landscaped yard, 2-car garage. Lee Jacobson x1309

UPPER DIMOND

\$489,000 Beautiful, charming updated bungalow on huge lot. 2BR/1BA, old world charm. Jennie A. Flanigan x1354

CROCKER HIGHLANDS

\$659,000 Glorious restoration of 1906 landmark on large, leafy site just north of UC. Magnificent woodwork, flexible floorplan. SeeMore @pacunion.com. Gini Erd

MONTCLAIR

\$1,000,000 Newly built, super chic contemporary. Custom details & inviting spaces open to lab SF views. 4BR/3.5BA. David Ichikawa x1331

PIEDMONT AVE.

\$759,000 Sleek 4+BR/3.5BA contemporary. Large bonus room, office, cook's kit, deck & landscaped private yard. Elegant & sophisticated. Joanne Hirsch x1366

LAUREL

\$425,000 3820 ENOS AVE. (Open 2-4:30) 2+BR/1BA, random plank hardwood floors in living room & FDR, large landscaped yard. 2-car garage. Lee Jacobson x1309

PIEDMONT AVE.

\$74,000 Sunny 2BR/1BA Craftsman on coveted street. Original details w/hardwood floors, built-ins. Updated kitchen opens to private garden. Christian Downer x1340

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SPORTS

• Friday, August 8, 2003 •

Section C

There's no slowing down King



WIN CURRIER

Remembering Dottie Stoltze

HERE HAS BEEN A considerable amount of ink lately about the fact that we, not just locally but internationally, are experiencing a major change in the wonderful world of sports.

Women are now playing a major role!

Well, pardon me, but this is hardly the news story of the century, let alone decade.

It's just that there is more funding for girls and women's sports opportunities and more prominence in newspapers and the world of television.

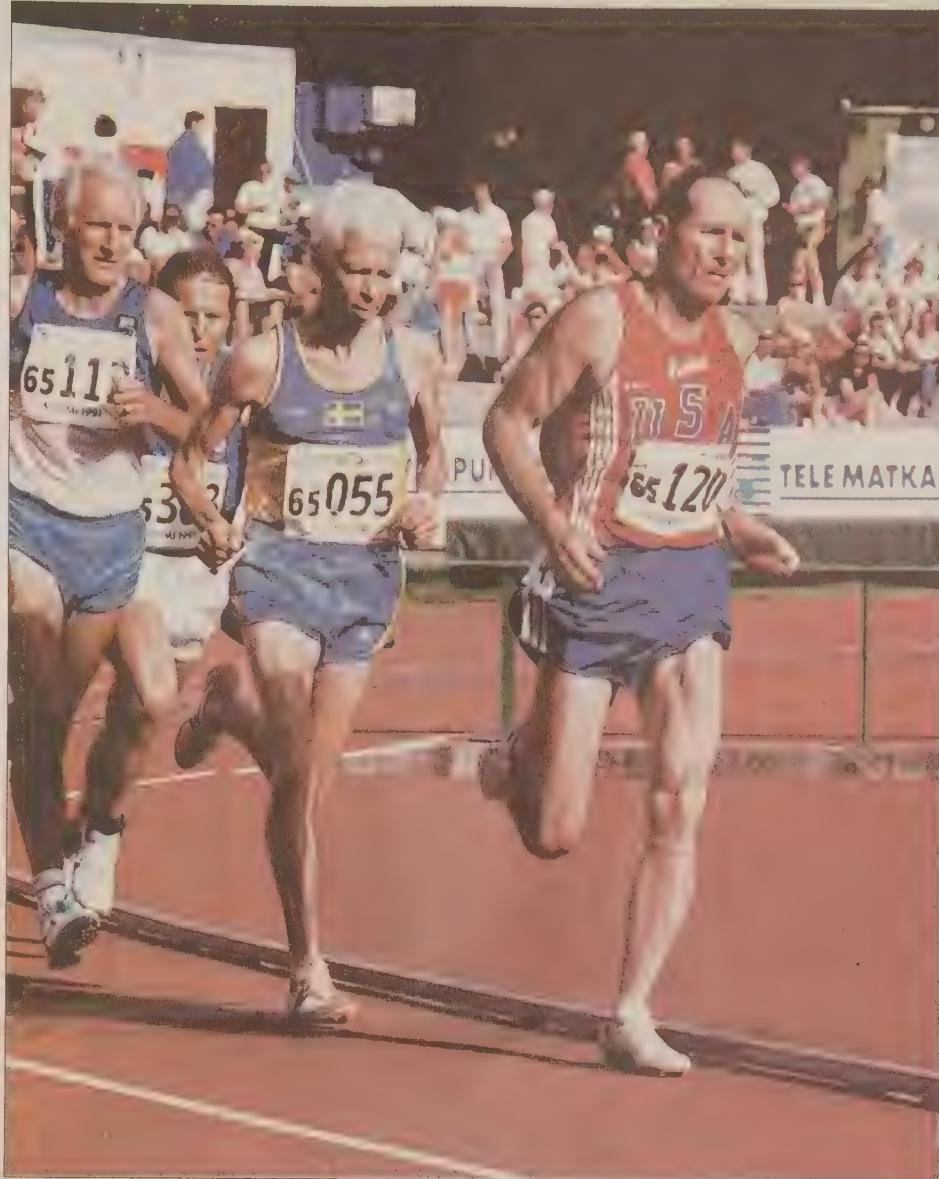
Long ago, the public had become aware of the skills of women in major sports. We knew of such women tennis players as Helen Wills Moody, Alice Marble and Alamedan Dorothy Head (Knodel).

We knew of golfers such as Babe Didrikson Zaharias and Betty Berg. And of great swimmers and divers such as Ann Curtis, Brenda Helser and Zoe Ann Olsen.

One of the big pushes for the rediscovered presence of women in sports was the 1992 movie "A League of Their Own." And, to get to the topic at hand, the film spotlighted the participation of women in baseball and the background of most of them in softball.

Those softball roots began in Alameda for Dottie Stoltze when she played for the Lucky Stores "girls" softball team managed by "Pop" Gustin.

See CURRIER, Page 2



ALAMEDA'S Joe King, right, shown here in the 1991 World Master Games, has six top 10 finishes in the grueling Dipsea.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

stopped running. He won the 1,500-meter race at the World Veterans Games in Finland in 1991, where he set an American record time of 4 minutes, 56.3 seconds in the 65-69 age group. But the Dipsea had to be put on hold.

After his retirement from teaching, he could no longer resist the Dipsea's call and began training. A big part of his workout includes running the Oakland hills, particularly a steep stretch called "Mile Hill."

"If I can run up Mile Hill without letting up, then I know I'm in shape," King said. "It's a good measuring device."

In 1994, despite his wife's objections out of fear of injury, King made his comeback in impressive fashion by taking third place. However, that was not nearly his best. In 1995 and 1996, King shocked the running community with back-to-back wins, making himself the oldest Dipsea champion at the age of 70.

"Every once in a while, timing,

strategy, conditioning and luck all come together. And it's happened to me less than 10 times," he said. "When it happens it's a great feeling. It's like scoring a touchdown in a bowl game."

King continued to run the Dipsea until 2002 when a fall on the course broke several of his fingers, yet he still finished the race. Although he sat out this year's Dipsea, he still found a way to be involved by serving as a volunteer at the Cardiac water station.

But don't count him out yet. King, who sees his attraction to the Dipsea as a "love-hate relationship," thinks he has at least three more races left in him. He said what keeps him going is a unique fear of failure and a deep-rooted desire to be challenged.

"The fear of failure is more of a spur than the glory of winning. I just don't want to look lousy," he said, laughing. "It takes me about an hour to finish the race, so I figure I can feel miserable for an hour."

Spence, Li take top spots

By Mike McGreehan

STAFF WRITER

ALAMEDA — From the beach along Shore Line Drive, through tree-lined Central Avenue, and ending up at the South Shore Center, more than 600 runners participated in the 22nd annual Alameda Run for the Parks here on Sunday.

As usual, Berkeley runners left their imprints on this 10-kilometer event.

Dan Spence and Suetfei Li both enjoyed a fine morning. Spence finished first among men 19-24 and second overall in a time of 33 minutes, 9 seconds.

Fellow Berkeley runners Nicolas Konefflatt and Stephen Ng were fourth and fifth among men 19-24 with respective times of 34:34 and 35:58.

Li was the top finisher in the 25-29 women's division at 38:43 and was 34th overall.

The overall winner was Enrique Henriquez, 25, of San Leandro, who crossed the finish line in 32:59. Konefflatt was ninth overall and Ng 18th.

The top women's finisher was 32-year-old Dana Jones of Morgan, who completed the race in 37:09, good for 25th place overall.

Sunday morning was overcast, but not cold, as the runners began the race in front of the George E. McDonald Courthouse on Shore Line Drive.

From there, the runners headed west on Shore Line Drive, working their way past Washington Park before turning east on Central Avenue. The course went down Fernside Boulevard to Encinal Avenue to Broadway to Shore Line once again before finishing at the South Shore Center.

In other results, Berkeley's Natasha Matteson ran 48:27, good for second place among 13-18 girls. John Boiles of Berkeley was fourth in the 25-29 men's division (same as overall winner Henriquez) at 41:14, good for 65th place overall.

Vin Harrington placed third among men 55-59 (42:58) and Linda Foy was third among women 55-59 (58:34).

Fellow Berkeleyan Fred Crews was second in the men's 70-95 division at 54:54.

Lacrosse tries to reach younger crowd

By Scott Strain

STAFF WRITER

The idea of introducing another sport into the already crowded field of high school sports can be a tenuous one at best. Will there be participation? Will there be funding? And if the last two criteria are met, will there be sustained interest?

When the California Intercollegiate Federation sanctioned lacrosse as a sport for boys and girls two years ago, it entered an already crowded spring sports field for both sexes. For local teams such as Berkeley High and Bishop O'Dowd, the excitement on a strong club before being sanctioned as a high school sport.

Both teams have done relatively well the last two years. Belmont High, which got many of its players from the Skyline Lacrosse Club, had an initial burst of enthusiasm when it was joined under former Berkeley coach Chris Sparhawk, but fell off in performance (and enrollment) last season. The Highiders did come on strong in the latter part of the season, but the question remains: Will lacrosse (at least at Piedmont), or go the way of the boys' volleyball program, which did not field a

team last year?

To that end, the East Bay Lacrosse Camp was held last week at Witter Field. Directed by Sparhawk, Skyline lacrosse coach George Stansbury and visiting coach Tim Puls from Essex Community College of Baltimore, about 30 players, from newcomers to experienced high school players, were put through their paces in three 90-minute sessions per day for four days.

It was a good turnout of play-

ers from Berkeley, Oakland and Piedmont.

"This is our first camp," Sparhawk said, "and we are primarily focusing on the younger players, seventh and eighth graders, but it certainly isn't limited to that. We have one third grader and a couple of players who are older."

"Because of the numbers, we're going to show them everything," Stansbury said. "They are going to make mistakes, but we

want them to be proactive — good — mistakes. Tim (Puls) is going to put them through everything his college teams go through, but obviously with less expectations."

The first morning session included running and passing drills. Passing drills were broken down into passing overhand with the stick (alternating left and right hands) and passing with the ball on the ground.

"This is a small group, so



STUDENTS listen to instructions from Tim Puls, who has been a lacrosse coach on the East Coast since 1977.

JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

Albany Lions smash tradition with one-sided victory

By Mike McGreehan
STAFF WRITER

ALAMEDA — Some baseball teams, it seems, always are good enough to finish second. Always a groomsman, never a groom, some might say.

To be sure, the players of the Albany Lions Club Youth Baseball 11-year-old All-Star team are still a number of years away from thinking of grooms and grooms. But they know second place like the backs of their hands, having finished runners-up in six tournaments in three years.

At Rittner Park on July 31, the Albany Lions All-Stars broke from their tradition in a big way with a 14-3 win over Lafayette in the Alameda 11-year-old All-Star Tournament championship game.

The game went only four innings due to the 10-run rule.

"The kids focused on winning and kept their cool the whole time," Albany coach Anthony Freeman said. "All 15 (players) wanted to win."

Albany started quickly, scoring four runs in the top of the first inning. By the time Albany had finished batting in the top of the fourth inning, the score had bulged to 14-0.

Albany received many key contributions as eight of the nine starters scored at least one run. Pitcher Jamie Freeman, who worked the first three innings, helped his cause with a triple, a pair of singles, two runs and an RBI. Tom Cone had two singles, a double and two runs.

The biggest stick in the lineup

for the tournament belonged to Connor Freeburg, who was consistent throughout. Against Lafayette, Freeburg had a home run, triple and sacrifice fly. Freeburg, who also reached on an error, scored three runs and drove in five.

Defensively, Albany committed its only error in the fourth inning.

"We had good defense — and we swung the bat well and were aggressive," Freeburg said.

In terms of pitching, Jamie Freeman shut down Lafayette the first three innings. In that span, Freeman struck out four, walked two and yielded just one hit, a leadoff single to Guy Stevens in the bottom of the first inning. Freeman moved to first base in the bottom of the fourth.

"I had to pitch good and throw strikes," Jamie Freeman said, commenting on the keys to the game.

Albany coaches told their players to be aggressive at the plate. And they were.

Albany wasted no time getting on the scoreboard, as Cone started the first-inning rally with a one-out double. Freeburg followed with his home run, a smash to the right of dead center field, and Albany quickly was up 2-0.

Jamie Freeman followed with a triple and Cole Goodman walked. Freeman scored on a double steal and Goodman raced to third when the return throw home went wild. Goodman scored moments later on Kyle Kubler's base hit.

Mark Arakaki began a three-run second-inning rally with a one-out triple. Arakaki failed to advance on Cone's bunt single, but raced home moments later when Cone deliberately got caught in a rundown between first and second.

Albany was not finished. Freeburg reached on an error and moved to third on Freeman's single. Both runners scored when Goodman reached on a two-base error, improving the lead to 7-0.

Any doubts about the game's outcome disappeared after Albany added six runs in the third inning. Chase Lee opened with a single and Evan Bachtel followed with a double to put runners at second and third. After Marcos Santos got hit by a pitch to load the bases, Jake Alaniz

belted a three-run double to make it 10-0 Albany advantage.

After Cone singled, Albany two-run triple for a 12-0 lead. Freeman then singled home for a 13-0 Albany

Albany scored its final runs in the bottom of the ninth, but the effort was not enough to keep the game going.

When the final bat was out, Albany players were to none for the first time during the game.

Sting completes perfect season

By Geoff Chin
SPECIAL TO THE HILLS NEWSPAPERS

The Albany-Berkeley Girls Softball League's 10-year-old Sting All-Stars rode their magic carpet all the way to the title this season, winning their fifth consecutive tournament of the summer, this time in Pleasant Hill on July 19-20.

But it was really not magic nor miracles that brought the team so far, rather the time-tested and down-to-earth combination of dominant pitching, timely hitting and error-free defense. Coached by Angie Goularte of Pinole, the Sting 10B team players showed maturity and poise beyond their years, completing their two-month summer season in memorable fashion.

The pitching corps of Rebecca Studin and Hannah Port of El

Cerrito and Kelsey Murakami of Berkeley allowed a total of only six hits in the tourney's six games. Offensively, the Sting outscored opponents 51-5, including a final 3-1 victory over the Pajaro Valley Tremblers that ended the tournament.

Defense, for once, played a role in several wins. Because of overpowering pitching on the year, opponents seldom hit balls in the air or into the outfield, leading to a dearth of defensive chances. But coaching and practice sessions paid off, as every catchable ball died in a fielder's glove.

The Sting enjoyed strong all-around performances the entire season thanks to the efforts of second baseman Krista Smithers, catcher Maddie Cousins, first baseman Sara Muse, outfielder-

fielders Corey Chin and Sabina Khan, all of Albany, catcher-outfielder Zoe Oliver-Grey of Oakland, third baseman Diana Fong of Piedmont, and outfielders Marisa Budiong of Richmond, and Caitlin Taffe and Lisa Gilliland of El Cerrito. Credit also goes to the stellar pitching rotation of Studin, Port, and Murraka.

The Sting juggernaut rolled over the best teams representing Campbell, San Jose, Napa Valley, Oakland, Mountain View, Morgan Hill, Santa Clara, Pajaro Valley, Half Moon Bay, Concord, Pleasant Hill, and Vallejo.

Nearly equal to the 10B's success, the Sting 12B's also won their age bracket of the Pleasant Hill tournament, their third title in a row. The 12B's won second place in their other two efforts.

pitch the game because she "throws one of the fastest softballs," the story said.

Like others playing for teams such as Lucky Stores and Chapel of the Oaks, the ultimate would be playing for Fisher's teams. While Dotie was playing shortstop, Estelle "Rookie" Caioto was playing second. A season or two before that, Bernice Amaral was playing third base for Chapel of the Oaks and she was now part of that awesome Alameda Girls lineup ... and both Stoltze and Caioto were soon to follow Fisher, by then, had retired from the Alameda Fire Department.

In 1943, a Times-Star report listed girls teams preparing for the league season: Chapel of the Oaks, Creamcrest, M.A. Hays, Alameda Dairy, Lucky Stores, State Finance, Dorsey and Spenger's Fish Grotto.

Dottie Stoltze, "Rookie" Caioto and Lorraine Perry were among those who were chosen to join the Alameda Girls in 1943. That team opened the season in early June, with Dottie Stoltze now at shortstop, against Lucky Stores. The story said that there were 1,000 extra seats set up in left field for the big event. Not surprisingly, the Alameda Girls won 10-0 and continued their undefeated streak, which ultimately ran to 102 games and ended only when the team disbanded.

One of the exhibition games played by the Ollie Fisher team was against a team from Hawaii — a girls baseball team. When the Alameda team was in the field, the teams played underhand softball; and when the Hawaiian girls were on the field, overhand baseball. It was

a portent of things to come for Dottie Stoltze and several others from this area. Soon, they were part of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. Stoltze, an extremely versatile athlete, played every position except pitcher during her 1946-1952 stay in the league, starting with the Muskegon (Mich.) KalAssies and ending with the Peoria (Ill.) Red Wings.

Stoltze continued her participation in the world of softball by coaching high school teams at DeAnza and Pinole Valley. Several of her players learned and perfected their skills before becoming part of such teams as Larry Montoya's Round Table Pizza coed team and the future women's national champion Green Machine of Richmond.

Stoltze remained an avid fan of all sports and was invited to throw out the ceremonial first ball at an Oakland Athletics game at the Coliseum.

For those who knew her, however, the image remains of her years of enthusiastic and skilled play for Lucky Stores and the Alameda Girls.

And, along with other women athletes of many years ago, Stoltze demonstrated that the presence and prominence of women in organized sports is not a suddenly new thing.

In this case it was Alameda, but in countless other cases it was "Anytown, USA," producing women with the desire, skill and temperament to earn respect and prominence in sports.

THE big change, then, is just that the stage is larger, the prominence is greater, but the roots are the same as developed long ago.

Top 50 women: 1. Dara Jones (Montgomery); 2. Beckie Kriegel (Pleasanton); 3. Chris Ferren-Cirino (Burlingame); 33-35, 3. Kellie Haber (Hayward); 33-35, 5. Thom Trimble (Walnut Creek); 33-35, 7. Justin Rau (Livermore); 34-36, 8. Brian Stevens (Livermore); 34-36, 9. Nicolas Konefka (Berkeley); 34-36, 10. John Gaudette (San Francisco); 34-36, 11. Yoi Rechert (Alameda); 34-36, 13. Chris Wong (Livermore); 34-36, 15. Agustin Cruz (Daly City); 33-35, 16. Tim Keenan (Walnut Creek); 35-37, 17. Antonio Quintana (Castro Valley); 35-37, 18. Michael Singleton (Fremont); 35-37, 19. John Gaudette (San Francisco); 34-36, 20. Tony Rechert (Alameda); 34-36, 21. Chris Wong (Livermore); 34-36, 22. Doug Corlett (Hayward); 34-36, 23. John Gaudette (San Francisco); 34-36, 24. Eric Anderson (San Francisco); 34-36, 25. 1. Danica Rodriguez (San Ramon); 30-31, 44. Tracy Parish (Alameda); 30-32, 45. Mana Andrews (San Francisco); 30-32, 46. Marisa Budiong (Oakland); 30-32, 47. Diane Fong (Piedmont); 30-32, 48. Kellie Haber (Hayward); 33-35, 5. Thom Trimble (Walnut Creek); 33-35, 7. Justin Rau (Livermore); 34-36, 8. Brian Stevens (Livermore); 34-36, 9. Nicolas Konefka (Berkeley); 34-36, 10. John Gaudette (San Francisco); 34-36, 11. Yoi Rechert (Alameda); 34-36, 13. Chris Wong (Livermore); 34-36, 15. Agustin Cruz (Daly City); 33-35, 16. Tim Keenan (Walnut Creek); 35-37, 17. Antonio Quintana (Castro Valley); 35-37, 18. Stephen Ng (Berkeley); 35-36, 19. Michael Singleton (Fremont); 36-37, 20. Alistar Murray (Palo Alto); 36-37, 21. Chris Becker (Castro Valley); 36-37, 22. David Jones (Livermore); 36-37, 23. John Gaudette (San Francisco); 36-37, 24. Eric Anderson (San Francisco); 36-37, 25. 1. John Hirschberger (San Francisco); 36-37, 26. Doug Corlett (Hayward); 36-37, 27. Doug Corlett (Livermore); 36-37, 28. Tony O'Toole (Alameda); 36-37, 29. Tim Keenan (Walnut Creek); 36-37, 30. Antonio Quintana (Castro Valley); 35-37, 18. Stephen Ng (Berkeley); 35-36, 19. 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EVENTS

Theater

BERKELEY MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY — "Oliver!" by Lionel Bart, FANNY — "Oliver!" by Lionel Bart, Chene Dickens book "Oliver Twist," the play follows a poor orphan in the 1800s as he is sold from a workhouse to an undertaker and is then taken up by hand of thieves. \$15 general; \$10 seniors, students, children, and low-income. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 8-9. Alameda High School, 603 Key Route Ave., Alameda. 510-524-1224.

A CONTRA COSTA CIVIC THEATRE — "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" by Bert Shevelove, Larry Gelbart and Stephen Sondheim, closes Aug. 16. A vaudeville-style play with situations that kept the Romans laughing. Adults, \$12 for ages 16 and older; \$10 general, \$12 for ages 16 and younger. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. 510-534-9132 or www.cct.org.

OAKLAND PUBLIC THEATER — "Master Harold and the Boys," by Athol Fugard, runs Aug. 15-Sept. 7. Anti-apartheid drama set in a South African cafe poses the question, "What does it take for any one of us to abandon our own humanity even just for a moment?" Tickets \$10-\$18. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. Sunday. Metro Theatre, 2nd Street and Broadway, Oakland. 510-534-9529 or www.oakland-metro.org.

OPERA PICCOLA — "The Guests" by Shamsi Parsipour and Scott Hill, Aug. 16, 17 and 21. This fifth commissioned work in the Opera's Folk Tale Cycle retells an ancient Iranian tale of a woman who is visited one evening by a group of guests. In the version, which mixes traditional and contemporary forms of music, dance and theater from both the U.S. and Iran, the heroine is rejected by her village and family for marrying without her father's permission. Aug. 16-17: Alcatraz Center, 1428 Alice St., Oakland. Before Saturday's performance, 7 p.m., Ms. Parsipour will speak about her experiences in prison in Iran. Aug. 21: Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, \$15 general; \$8 seniors and students. 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. 730-748-0967 or 925-798-1300.

SAN FRANCISCO MIME TROUPE — In their 42nd season, this troupe that deals in satirical political comedy will be performing free in Bay Area parks and outdoor venues across Northern California. All shows open with a half-hour of music. "Veronica of the Mountains" by Meena Sullivan, Bruce Barthol, Tom Calias and Jason Sherbundy, Aug. 9. This new musical adventure, set in the near future, addresses themes of militarism and more as the United States prepares to invade Canada to get rid of terrorist hideouts there. Aug. 9 and Aug. 10, 2 p.m. Live Oak Park, Shattuck Avenue

and Berryman Street, Berkeley. Aug. 13 and Aug. 14, 7 p.m.: Lakeside Park, Lakeside Drive at Lake Merritt, Oakland Free. 415-285-1717 or www.sfmt.org.

SHOTGUN PLAYERS — "Mother Courage and Her Children" by Bertolt Brecht, through Sept. 14. A woman who depends on war for her personal survival is nicknamed Mother Courage for her coolness in safeguarding her merchandise under enemy fire. One by one her three children die, yet she continues her profit-seeking. With live

music accompaniments. Sept. 13 show will be at Live Oak Park, Berryman Street and Shattuck Avenue. Free. Saturday and Sunday, 4 p.m. NO SHOW AUG. 9. John Hinkie Park, South Hampton Avenue and San Diego Road, Berkeley. 510-704-8210 or www.shotgunplayers.org/STAGE DOOR CONSERVATORY — "Bye Bye Birdie" by Michael Stewart, Lee Adams, Charles Strouse, Aug. 15 through Aug. 17. A rock and roll star is drafted and goes to a small town for a

publicity stunt before he leaves and finds himself caught in the middle of small town teenage life. Performed by participants of the "On Broadway" program for fifth to ninth grade children. \$13 general, \$8 seniors, children, students. Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 5 p.m. Julie Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542 or www.juliamorgan.org.

See EVENTS, Page C5

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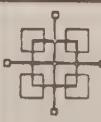
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NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Mary F. Pois, Times; Robert W. Butler, Chris Hewitt, Knight Ridder Newspapers; Glenn Lovell, Bruce Newman, San Jose Mercury News; David Germain, Christy Lemire, Jocelyn Noveck, Sheila Norman-Culp, Ben Nuckles, Malcolm Ritter and Matt Wolf, Associated Press; Stephen Holden, Dave Kehr, Elvis Mitchell and A.O. Scott, New York Times; James Bernard, Jack Mathews, New York Daily News; Evan Henseler, Bob Strauss, Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Manohla Dargis, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Ed Bark, Nancy Churnin, Chris Vogler, Philip Wurtzel, Dallas Morning News; Robert Philpot, Fort Worth Star-Telegram; Jay Boyar, Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Joe Bataille, Sacramento Bee; Ann Hornaday and Stephen Hunter, Washington Post.

"AMERICAN WEDDING": This latest installment of the "American Pie" series has Jim (Jason Biggs) and band-camp girl (Alyson Hannigan) getting married. Jim's pals are ready to help him make that journey down the aisle, and that means keeping the news from frat-boy jock steep Steve Stifler, played to the very limits of human annoyance by Sean William Scott. Of course, the "Stif-meister," being the crudest character ever to appear in a major motion picture, proceeds to muck up the works. Naturally, more kinky, yucky accidents and unlucky coincidences happen than you can shake a pastry at. Good acting aside, it is past time for the "Pie" kids to say bye-bye to "American Pie." — R. Moore. (R: sexual content, language and crude humor.) 1 hour, 31 minutes. C-

"BAD BOYS II": In the barest of plots, Miami cops and federal agents try to bring down a ring of Cuban and Russian mobsters smuggling Ecstasy into Florida. On the case, once again, are trash-talking narcotics detectives played by Will Smith and Martin Lawrence, this time joined by newcomer Gabrielle Union. There's really nothing to distinguish good guys from bad boys beyond the fact that the villains speak in accents, while Smith and Lawrence get to crack wise while blowing things up or blowing people away. You expect morality and decency to go out the window in a big, dumb cop spectacle; you don't figure on the filmmakers reveling in barbary. — D. Germain. (R: strong violence and action, pervasive language, sexuality and drug content.) 2 hours, 24 minutes. D-

"BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM": This genial ethnic sports comedy directed by Gurinder Chadha was a big hit in Britain. Jess (Parminder Nagra) is the younger daughter in a family of middle-class Punjabi immigrants residing in a London suburb. Her passion for soccer puts her at odds with her parents, who think sports are an improper pastime for an almost-grown teenager with marriage and university to think about. The result is a culture clash that ripples outward from her own household and becomes more and more complicated until the soccer match comes along to sort it all out. — A.O. Scott. (PG-13: language, sexual content.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. C-

"CAPTURING THE FRIEDMANS": If you're at a cocktail party this summer and you're chatting with two other people who've just discovered that they've both seen this fascinating new documentary from novice director Andrew Jarecki, consider yourself conversationalist dead in the water. The only reasonable solution is to get out and see it for yourself so you can join in the debate about the Friedmans, a Long Island family that fell apart in the late 1980s after the dad was accused of sexually molesting a dozen or so neighborhood boys. Was he railroaded? Did he do it? You decide. You won't leave feeling cheery, but this roller coaster of a film is deeply challenging. — M. Polis. (NR) 1 hour, 47 minutes. A-

"CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE": Fun is infectious, which is why the first "Charlie's Angels" worked. But forced, toothy grins that go on far longer than cheek muscles or genuine merriment allow also tend to set a tone, which makes this feel strained and tedious. Not to say there isn't some goofy humor here, but there's also a sinking sense that you've seen much of it before. Director McG pilfers from others rather than creating for himself (he's still stealing from the first "Matrix"), and the girls are starting to seem like a table full of giggling cheerleaders in the high school cafeteria, so hopped up on how adorable they are that they don't realize their charms are wearing thin. Demi Moore as the villain does look fabulous, but she still can't act. — M. Polis. (PG-13: action violence, sensuality and language/innuendo.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. C+

"DIRTY PRETTY THINGS": Stephen Frears' darkly intriguing film is set in a London hotel called the Baltic. With its fluffy monogrammed bathrobes, the place aspires to be posh, but there's graffiti visible in the wood-paneled elevator, a prostitute regularly entertains in Room 510, and every now and again, someone might stuff a human heart in a toilet. Night porter Okwe (Chiwetel Ejiofor), an illegal immigrant who was a doctor back in his native Nigeria, sets out to unravel the mystery of the heart. Along the way, he becomes wrapped up in the troubles of Turkish immigrant Senay (Audrey Tautou), who has a crush on him, and runs afoul of hotel chief of staff Señor Juan (a diabolical Sergi López), who can and will sell anything on the black market. The mystery propels the story, but it is the palpable desperation of the immigrants that sells it. — M. Polis. (R: sexual content, disturbing images and language.) 1 hour, 47 minutes. B+

"DOWN WITH LOVE": A fairly winning new romantic comedy that could be right out of the Restoration Hardware catalogue, a stylistic homage to the '60s Doris Day-Rock Hudson comedies. Renee Zellweger is Barbara Novak, author of a shocking new feminist treatise that proposes women who want to get ahead should put aside love. It's a huge publishing hit, but it hampers the sex life of cocky journalist Catcher Block (McGregor), who decides to prove that Barbara is a squishy love nut at heart. Clever retro-style editing really works, the sexual innuendo and banter fly like the Concorde; and Catcher's sidekick, David Hyde Pierce, has exquisite comic timing. But the combination of McGregor's creepy shark smile and Zellweger's weirdly puffy face is off-putting and the freshness runs out before the end arrives. — M. Polis. (PG-13: sexual content, pervasive language and brief, strong violence.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. F

"THE HOUSEKEEPER": Leave it to a veteran French filmmaker, Claude Berri, to bring maximum charm, wisdom and humor to a May-December romance, this one adapted from a novel. A handsome, middle-aged man has a small but tasteful apartment in central Paris and a good job as a recording engineer. When his wife leaves him, he hires a young housekeeper who turns his world upside down. — K. Thomas. (Not rated.) 1 hour 28 minutes. B+

"HOW TO DEAL": Having watched her parents split up, teenaged Halley Martin (Mandy Moore) thinks falling in love is treacherous. Even the cutest bad boy in high school, MacKen Foster (Trent Ford), is going to have to work hard to get her to give him the time of day. That constitutes the central dramatic arc of "How to Deal," an amiable, after-school-special-style teen drama. Hardly a meaty premise, but fortunately, the ultra-cute pop star's latest cinematic effort has been padded with more genuine, heartfelt social issues — from the fallout of divorce to teen pregnancy — and features some decent supporting roles. Allison Janney brings spark to her role as Halley's mom, and truth be told, Moore is an appealing if undeveloped actress. — M. Polis. (PG-13: sexual content, drug material, language and some thematic elements.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. A

"FINDING NEMO": Another delight of the imagination from Pixar, set under the sea, in the realm of fish who talk real estate, sharks who try to be better denizens of the deep, and lobsters named Mike, Nemo, a small clown fish, is plucked from the ocean and dropped into a fish tank in a dentist's office in Sydney. His timid father, Marlin, travels many leagues to find him, accompanied by a dopey but very funny tang fish (voiced by Ellen DeGeneres). The ideal blend of sentiment and sparkling humor, perfect for kids, charming for parents, and so good it's likely to appeal to a few soul who are neither. — M. Polis. (G) 1 hour, 41 minutes. A

"FREAKY FRIDAY": The world didn't need a remake of the 1976 mother-daughter classic "Freaky Friday." Yet Disney's new version, starring Jamie

Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan, is ideal: funny, good-hearted and loaded with genuine charm of its own. They play a mother and daughter constantly at war who, after eating a special fortune cookie, magically switch bodies, and find a new appreciation for each other. Blissfully free of the poor taste that plagues so many youth movies, with plenty of genuine laugh-out-loud moments. — M. Polis. (PG: mild thematic elements, some language.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. B+

"GIGLI": Sometimes when a movie gets universally horrendous reviews, you get the urge to go see it, just to see if it's really that bad. Think "Showgirls." Trust us on this one, though: Ben Affleck-Jennifer Lopez love story, in which he plays a moron and she a fence-jumping lesbian, is not worth your while. It has moments of remarkable, jaw-dropping tastelessness, but the other 120 minutes are so deadly dull, you'll want to nod off. Madonna's horrendous "Swept Away" was far more fun. — M. Polis. (R: sexual content, pervasive language and brief, strong violence.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. F

"THE HOUSEKEEPER": Leave it to a veteran French filmmaker, Claude Berri, to bring maximum charm, wisdom and humor to a May-December romance, this one adapted from a novel. A handsome, middle-aged man has a small but tasteful apartment in central Paris and a good job as a recording engineer. When his wife leaves him, he hires a young housekeeper who turns his world upside down. — K. Thomas. (Not rated.) 1 hour 28 minutes. B+

"THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN": In the spirit of the Restoration Hardware catalogue, a stylistic homage to the '60s Doris Day-Rock Hudson comedies. Renee Zellweger is Barbara Novak, author of a shocking new feminist treatise that proposes women who want to get ahead should put aside love. It's a huge publishing hit, but it hampers the sex life of cocky journalist Catcher Block (McGregor), who decides to prove that Barbara is a squishy love nut at heart. Clever retro-style editing really works, the sexual innuendo and banter fly like the Concorde; and Catcher's sidekick, David Hyde Pierce, has exquisite comic timing. But the combination of McGregor's creepy shark smile and Zellweger's weirdly puffy face is off-putting and the freshness runs out before the end arrives. — M. Polis. (PG-13: sexual content, language and brief, strong violence.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. F

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"THE ITALIAN JOB": A life of crime is bad, a Mini Cooper is somewhat impractical, but by the end of this lively, funny action flick, you will probably want to indulge in both. Mark Wahlberg plays the head of a group of very lovable thieves, including Jason Statham, a winning Mos Def and hilarious Seth Green as the computer geek. Hardly a meaty premise, but fortunately, the ultra-cute pop star's latest cinematic effort has been padded with more genuine, heartfelt social issues — from the fallout of divorce to teen pregnancy — and features some decent supporting roles. Allison Janney brings spark to her role as Halley's mom, and truth be told, Moore is an appealing if undeveloped actress. — M. Polis. (PG-13: sexual content, drug material, language and some thematic elements.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. A

"THE LEGAL BLONDE 2: RED, WHITE & BLONDE": Bears more passing resemblance to "House Rock," those snippets set to music feature TV. Elle Woods (Reese Witherspoon) has finished law school, developed a passion for animal rights, and moves to D.C. to stop testing on animals. Along the way, she learns various surprise lessons, both about M. and Washington corruption, supporting characters play Newhart and Sally Field, but to teenage audiences, but as charming as the first "Schoolhouse Rock," rather useful as a civics lesson continues, through some make an annoying character. — M. Polis. (PG-13: sex scenes, violence, some language.) 1 hour, 44 minutes. B+

"LEGALLY BLONDE 2: RED, WHITE & BLONDE": Bears more passing resemblance to "House Rock," those snippets set to music feature TV. Elle Woods (Reese Witherspoon) has finished law school, developed a passion for animal rights, and moves to D.C. to stop testing on animals. Along the way, she learns various surprise lessons, both about M. and Washington corruption, supporting characters play Newhart and Sally Field, but to teenage audiences, but as charming as the first "Schoolhouse Rock," rather useful as a civics lesson continues, through some make an annoying character. — M. Polis. (PG-13: sex scenes, violence, some language.) 1 hour, 44 minutes. B+

"JOHNNY ENGLISH": Think "Dumb and Dumber" for the international spy set. The movie is silly — and proud of it. An unfortunate accident wipes out the British Secret Service, leaving office maven Johnny English (Rowan Atkinson) as the only man still standing. Needless to say, the Crown Jewels are gone within minutes. Who wants the gaudy rocks the most? Perhaps a disgruntled French billionaire whose family got shoved aside in the royal succession in, what, 1066? Atkinson's comedic style — a long, slow setup to the inevitable punch line — lets the audience see what's going to happen a mile away. On the other hand, in small doses, the character of Johnny English is sidesplitting. — S. Norman-Culp. (PG: comic nudity, crude humor and language.) 1 hour, 27 minutes. C+

"LUCIA, LUCIA": Lucia (Cate Blanchett) is an attractive, modestly dressed woman's book writer who has her husband of 12 years. She wants to tell and admits the story, she has a tendency to lie between fact and fiction. She has to tell pretty much her husband, Ramon (Jose Garcia Moreno), disappears at the end. He was apparently not who seemed, and soon Lucia finds herself in a neck in excitement and danger, comfort finds in two neighbors, gallant, white-bearded Don like veteran of the Spanish Civil War, the other an angelic-looking musician. The two are spot on in high adventure, and for a know, Lucia is coping with band walking out by spring elaborate tale. — K. Thomas. Quality, language and brief, 1 hour, 47 minutes. C+

"LUMIERE THEATRE": *Closed for Remodeling.*

"CLAY THEATRE": *Closed for Remodeling.*

"EMBARCADERO CENTER CINEMAS": *Closed for Remodeling.*

"WEST CONTRA COSTA CINEMA": *Closed for Remodeling.*

"CENTURY 16 HILTOP": *Closed for Remodeling.*

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"PIEDMONT THEATRE": *Closed for Remodeling.*

"SHATTUCK CINEMAS": *Closed for Remodeling.*

"PIEDMONT THEATRE": *Closed for Remodeling.*

Events

FROM PAGE C5

Marc Albert Chong, Barbara Armand Konie and Cynthia Wiggins. The other parts of the exhibition are at the Oakland Museum of California and the African American Museum and Library at Oakland. Free. Tuesday, Thursday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164 or www.mills.edu/MCAM/mcam.home.htm.

MUSEE DES HOMMAGES — "Masterworks Copies by Guy Colwell," ongoing. A new museum of masterwork recreations of famous European paintings handpainted by master California artist Colwell. The paintings, which cover a wide spectrum of European paintings from Van Eyck in the 15th century to Picasso in the 20th century, are full-scale, faithful copies of works by famous artists of the past created in an attempt to understand the secrets of these great artists. The museum does have regular hours so call ahead when planning a visit. Free. 2028 Ninth St., Berkeley. 510-841-4210 www.artefier9.com

THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA — "The Art of Fred Martin: A Retrospective, 1948-2003," through Dec. 28. An exhibit of paintings on board, paper and canvas that spans 50 years and includes 135 works by painter, teacher and writer Fred Martin. "Marvin Lipofsky: A Glass Odyssey," through Oct. 12. A retrospective exhibit that spans 40 years of the Berkeley artist's career. Included are a series of food sculptures and globe-shaped forms made by Lipofsky, one of the founders of the California art glass movement. "Reflections in Black: Smithsonian African American Photography," through Aug. 31.

Part II of an exhibition exploring the history of black photography from 1840 to the present. This exhibit, titled "Art and Activism," features African American photographers who were instrumental in motivating cultural change while documenting the beginnings of the civil rights and black power movements of the late 1950s and early 1960s, and who developed new artistic approaches in photography. Some of the photographers included in this section are Jonathan Eubanks, Chester Higgins, Jr., Lewis Watts, Jean Weisinger and Chandra McCormick. The other parts of the exhibition are at the Oakland Museum of

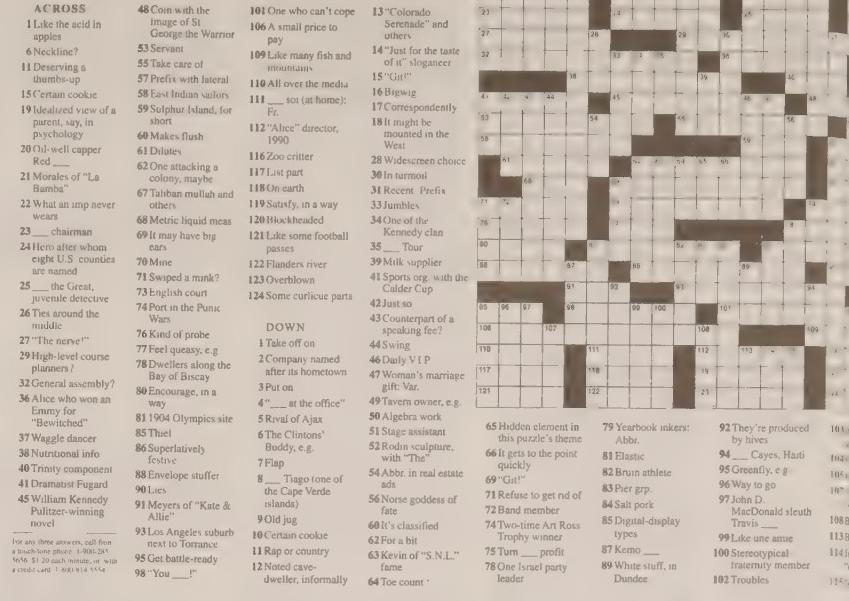
California and the Mills College Art Museum. "Iconic to Ironic: Fashioning California Identity," through Sept. 21. An exhibition displaying more than 100 articles of clothing and accessories from the museum's permanent collection, as well as items from other major museums and private lenders, including items like jeans, sportswear and the costumes of Marilyn Monroe, Marlene Dietrich, Michael Jackson, Sharon Stone and Brad Pitt. "Online Museum," Thursdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the museum's collection of video clips in the History Department Library. Docent Gallery Tours, Saturday and Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Art à la Carte, ongoing. Art docents offer a variety of specialized tours focusing on one aspect of the museum's permanent collection. Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Free with museum admission. "Bike Tours of Historic Oakland," Aug. 17, 10 a.m. A leisurely 5.5-mile bike tour focusing on Oakland's history and architecture. The tour is lead by museum docents. Meet at the 10th Street entrance. 510-238-3514. Free. "Family Explorations: Tactile Reptiles and Amazing Arachnids," Aug. 17, noon to 4 p.m. Explore the world of snakes and spiders with "PythonRon" McGee, and make snake or spider art and your own edible "tarantula." Free with museum admission. \$6 general; \$4 seniors and students; free children age 5 and under; free to all on the second Sunday of the month. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; first Friday of the month, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 888-OAK-MUSE www.museumca.org.

THE PARDEE HOME MUSEUM — The historic Pardee Mansion, a three-story Italianate villa built in 1866, was home to three generations of the Pardee family who were instrumental in the civic and cultural development of California and Oakland. The home includes the house, grounds, water tower and barn. Reservations recommended. \$5 general; free children under age 12. House Tours: Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. 672 11th St., Oakland. 510-444-2187 or www.pardee-home.org.

RICHMOND MUSEUM OF HISTORY — Permanent exhibits highlight Richmond's cultural, industrial and archi-

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CATCH- ALL By JIM PAGE / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

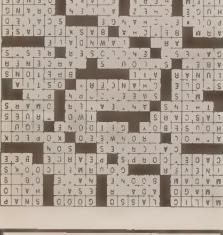


tectural legacy. "Places of Faith and Worship," ongoing. An exhibit documenting the history of the many churches that reflect Richmond's diverse cultures and lifestyles. Free. Wednesday through Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 409 Nevins Ave., Richmond. 510-235-7387

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY ART MUSEUM — "MATRIX 207. Suggested North Points," through Sept. 7. An exhibit by Anna Von Mertens of hand-dyed and hand-stitched nontraditional quilts detailing the artist's life. "Turning Comers,"

through Summer 2004. This exhibition looks at five centuries of innovative art and ideas from around the world through masterworks from the UC Berkeley Art Museum collections. On view are works by artists ranging from Albrecht Durer, Peter Paul Rubens and Paul Gauguin to Jackson Pollock and Eva Hesse, and recent work by Jeanne Dunning, Xu Bing and Mona Hatoum. \$8 general; \$5 seniors, students and youth ages 12 to 18; free

See EVENTS, Page C7



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Events

FROM PAGE C8

children under age 12 and UC Berkeley students; free to all on first Thursday of the month. Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 2628 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808 or www.bcmplc.berkeley.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY HEARST MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY — "The World in a Frame: Photographs from the Great Age of Exploration, 1865-1915," ongoing. An exhibition of photographs capturing the beauty of wilderness landscapes of the American West, ancient ruins of the Southwest and architectural photos in Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. Most of the images are albumen prints and have not been exhibited for decades. "Native California Cultures," ongoing. This is a permanent exhibit of some 600 artifacts from the museum's collections, the largest and most comprehensive collections in the world devoted to California Indian cultures. The exhibit includes a section about Ishi, the famous Indian who lived and worked with the museum, while tribal baskets and a 17-foot Yurok canoe carved from a single redwood. "A Century of Collecting," ongoing. The exhibition examines collecting as a form of cultural representation, presenting objects from around the world. Displays focus on the systematic character of these collections and provide original contexts for the objects, which increases a viewer's understanding of the peoples who made and used the objects. \$2 general, \$1 seniors, \$0.50 youths age 18 and under; free on Thursdays for all. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 102 Kroeger Hall, Bancroft Way and College Avenue, Berkeley. 510-642-3682 or www.hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY MUSEUM OF PALEONTOLOGY — "Tyrannosaurus Rex," ongoing. A 40-foot, 40-foot long replica of the iconic dinosaur. The replica is made from casts of bones of the complete T. Rex skeleton yet excavated. When unearthed in Montana, the bones were all lying in place with only a small piece of the tailbone missing. "Pteranodon," ongoing. A slender skeleton of a flying reptile with a wingspan of 22 to 23 feet. The

Pteranodon lived at the same time as the dinosaurs. "California Fossils Exhibit," ongoing. An exhibit of some of the fossils that have been excavated in California. Free 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, 1-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Lobby, Valley Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley. 510-642-1821 or www.ucmp.berkeley.edu.

WESTERN AEROSPACE MUSEUM — The museum features a display of aircraft ranging from World War II to present-day models, as well as other historical aviation memorabilia. Among the museum displays are a McDonnell Douglas A-4 Skyhawk from the Vietnam War; a McDonnell Douglas-British Aerospace Harrier; a replica of the Wright Brothers' 1903 Flyer, the first plane to be flown across the United States; and a Lockheed Vega, a single engine plane flown by Amelia Earhart who set speed records in it. The plane is the only Vega in existence with an aluminum fuselage.

Also included is a vertical take-off Harrier jet formerly belonging to NASA and a British-built flying boat. Docent-led tours available by special request. \$7 general; \$6 seniors; \$3 children age 6 through 12; free children under age 6. \$2 additional for Short Solent flying boat tour. Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. North Field, Oakland International Airport, B260 Boeing St., Building 821, Oakland. 510-638-7100.

Comedy

DORSEY'S LOCKER — "Laughter at the Locker," Monday, 10 p.m. Free. 5817 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-428-1935 or www.comedyaccess.com.

EAST BAY IMPROV — "A Night of Improvised Comedy," Aug. 15 and Aug. 18, 8 p.m. \$5. Pinot Community Playhouse, 601 Tennen Ave., Pinole. 510-964-0571 or www.eastbayimprov.com.

OAKLAND PLAYHOUSE COMEDY IMPRO TROUPE — Show every Thursday, 8 p.m. \$5. Oakland Box Theater, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5597.

TOMMY'S COMEDY HOUSE — Michael Blackson, 8:30 p.m. Aug. 8-9. Shows are \$15. 1655 B Willow Pass Rd., Concord. 925-686-6809 or www.tommys.com.

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Popular music

ASHKENAZ — "Soukous Stars," Aug. 8, 9:30 p.m. \$18. Caribbean Altears, Aug. 9, 9:30 p.m. \$13. Courtaleau, Aug. 12, 8:30 p.m. \$9. Pape and Cheikh, DJ Omar, Aug. 13, 9:30 p.m. \$13 to \$15. Malika, Riddimystics, Shashamani Soundystem, Aug. 15, 9:30 p.m. \$11. African Rhythm Messengers, Aug. 16, 9:30 p.m. \$13. 1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 525-5055 or www.ashkenaz.com.

BECKETT'S IRISH PUB — Seventy, Aug. 8. Nicole McRory, Aug. 9, 8:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. \$14. Women, Aug. 15, Free. For ages 21 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 647-1790 or www.beckettsirishpub.com.

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — Ghanda, El Jefe, Triboelectric, Hot, 8:30 p.m. for Teacher: A Van Halen Tribute, Blitzbenhamer, Aug. 9, \$10. Catholic Comb, Scular, Aug. 10, \$3. AC/Dehe: Bon Scott era AC/DC Tribute, Aug. 15. \$8. Sol Americana, Dark Man Shank, Charles Cooper Quartet, Aug. 16. \$8. Caught In Between, Aug. 17, \$3. The Steve Gannon Band and Mt. Dee Monday, \$4. For ages 18 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0888 or www.blakesontelegraph.com.

CATO'S ALE HOUSE — Christopher Gamper Trio featuring Michael Emanuel, Aug. 10. Jose Roberto y Sus Amigos, Aug. 16. Steve Deutsch Trio, Aug. 17. Free. Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-655-3349 or www.catos.com.

DOWNTOWN — Danny Caron and Friends, Aug. 8. Slow and Slower, Aug. 9. Mimi Fox Solo Guitar, Aug. 12. Jules Brassard and Ned Boynton, Aug. 13. Keni El Lenjano Flamenco Guitar, Aug. 14. Leonard Thompson, Aug. 15. Brian Melvin, Aug. 16. Free. Tuesdays through Thursday at 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 9:30

p.m. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810 or www.downtown-restaurant.com.

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE — Michael McNevin, Aug. 8, 11:50 a.m.-5 p.m. \$18.50. Ramblin' Jack Elliot, Aug. 9, \$17.50 to \$18.50. Phil Marsh, Aug. 10, \$15.50 to \$18.50. Hookslide, Aug. 13, \$15.50 to \$18.50. Lunasa, Aug. 14, \$17.50 to \$18.50. Crooked Jades, Aug. 15, \$15.50 to \$18.50. High Country, Aug. 16, \$16.50 to \$17.50. Rusty Evans and Ring of Fire, Aug. 17, \$15.50 to \$18.50. Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761 or 510-762-BASS or www.freightandsalvage.org.

THE GREEK THEATRE — Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals, Jack Johnson, Aug. 15 through Aug. 17, \$35. Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:30 p.m. Hearst Avenue and Gayley Road, Berkeley. 510-444-TIXS, 415-421-TIXS, www.cc.comor.com/ticketmaster.com.

KIMBALLS EAST — Jerry Butler, Aug. 8 through Aug. 10, \$30. Steve Oliver, Aug. 15 and Aug. 16, \$28. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. 6005 Shellmond St., Emeryville. 510-762-BASS or www.kimballs.com.

LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER — Valle Son, Aug. 15, 8 p.m. \$18 to \$18. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-2568 or www.lapena.org.

924 GILMAN ST. — Locust, Erase Errata, Hella, The Rah Brahs, My Name Is Rar Rar, Aug. 8. Strike Anywhere, From Ashes Rise, They Live, Robot, Has Werewolfhand, Disaster, Stalker Potential, Aug. 9. Ludicra, Brainoil Wormwood, Fall of The Bastards, In the Wake of The Plague, Aug. 15. Annihilation Time, Iron Lung, Gatecrashers, Cut of Vogue, Takami, Aug. 16. Desperate Measures, Far From Breaking, Lights Out, With or Without You, Aug. 17. All ages welcome. Shows are \$5 and start at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926.

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THE DINING GUIDE**Legend: \$ rating is average dinner entrée price**

AE	American Express	\$Entrées under \$7
CB	Carte Blanche	\$\$	\$7-\$14
DC	Diners Club	\$\$\$	\$15-\$20
DS	Discover Card	\$\$\$\$	\$20+
MC	MasterCard		
VS	Visa	FB	Full Bar
AC	All Cards accepted	RR	Reservations recommended
CA	Checks accepted	W	Wheelchair access

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For the past four years, pasta Pelican Restaurant has been delighting its guests with a variety of unique dishes. Their extensive menu offers veal, steak, seafood, chicken classic pastas, salads, sandwiches and appetizers. Guests are raving about this waterfront restaurant for their famous fresh baked bread, fried calamari, homemade clam chowder, variety of salads, attentive, friendly service, and inviting atmosphere. All this for what is considered to be one of the best values in the Bay Area. Formerly The Rusty Pelican, the restaurant is located in Alameda, behind the Webster Tubo with a spectacular view of Jack London Square and the Oakland Hills. You will truly enjoy this fine dining experience. Parking and docking are free. For reservations please call (510) 864-7427.

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Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant. For over 30 years the restaurant has been located adjacent to the Park Street Bridge overlooking the Alameda/Oakland estuary. The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, angus New York steak, prime rib, pasta, teriyaki ribs, daily specials, and much more. The theme in the kitchen is "good homestyle cooking." Brunch is served on weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the popular earlybird menu is featured daily. Every table has a view of the water and there is plenty of free parking. The Pier is open 7 days a week, Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. Bar hours: Mon. - Thu. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Fri. - Sat.

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www.speisekammer.com Handicap accessible! There is a word in the German language that has no counterpart in English: Gemütlichkeit. It connotes a combination of comfort, friendship, and the general sentiment of being completely at ease with yourself and your surroundings. The atmosphere at Speisekammer is Gemütlich. Owners, Peter and Cindy Kahl, present German food that is good for the soul. Wiener Schnitzel, Sauerkraut, Bratwurst are among the favorites. Specials change daily and include seasonal salads as well as fresh seafood. The beer is German, the cocktails are distinctly American and the wine list has some of both. Large tables make it a great place for large groups. Speisekammer - A German Restaurant

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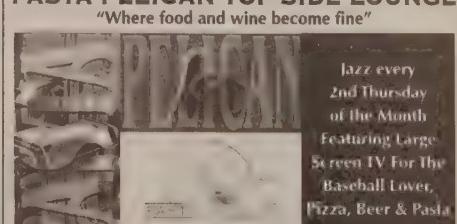
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Reviews

FROM PAGE C4

ADAME SATA: It is 1932 in the unspoiled bohemian neighborhood of Lapa, home to priests, prostitutes, thieves and misfits, and Joao Pedro dos Santos (Lazarus) is the fiery-eyed street fighter who transforms himself into Madame Sata, a glittering transvestite and storyteller. Transcendent doesn't pretend to be a meticulous biography of the real Francisco, who was born in 1900 to slaves in the land of North Brazil and sold by his master at 7. It is a voluptuous, bloated portrait of a social outcast, a black homosexual criminal playing out his gauntlet of Holly dreams, transcendentally reinvented and himself. — S. Holden. (Not in Portuguese with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. A-

MAGDALENE SISTERS: A moving, riveting and tragically honest tale of religious repression and its toll upon women by the Catholic

Church in 20th century Ireland. In 1964, an unwed mother, a rape victim and a girl considered too pretty for her own good are sent to work in a Magdalene Laundry outside of Dublin, essentially a prison of hard labor and "reform" run by nuns. The nuns are sadists, the girls bewildered victims and their faithful families believe they are doing the best thing for their children. Made with great passion and conviction by writer/director Peter Mullan. He stretches credibility with a scene involving the crowd-pleasing humiliation of a very bad priest, but his film will break your heart. The Vatican has denounced it, but oral histories from survivors support Mullan's premise. — M. Polk. (R; violence/cruelty, nudity, sexual content and language.) 1 hours, 59 minutes. A-

"MASKED AND ANONYMOUS": The time is the near future, in an America that has become a Third World lawless dictatorship. Scarfet of all, Mickey Rourke is next in line for the presidency. A benefit concert to better the world has been organized by two low-class buzzards (Jessica Lange and John Goodman), who intend to pocket

the profits. They came up with a man, has been Dylan-esque singer named Jack Fate (Bob Dylan) whom they spring from prison. On the plus side, this film has a lot of built-in intrigue, including an insistent political point of view (the world is doomed to meaningless coups stoked by religious fervor), lots of A-list cameos, and a lot of music. If this is what we must endure to see Dylan perform — well, there are worse hells. The question is, does all this add up to something worth seeing or to a disastrous vanity project? — J. Bernard. (PG-13; profanity and violence.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. D+

"NORTHFORK": The movie is set on a vast Montana plain in 1955, two days before the town of the film's title will be submerged by the opening of an immense dam. Government officials are not amused that 65 Northfork residents have still not left their property, and six men, clad in black and paired into three teams, have been recruited to facilitate the "evacs." The key team consists of Walter O'Brien (James Woods), who also must decide whether to exhume his late wife from the local cemetery and rebury

her, and Walter's son Willis (Mark Polish). This evocative piece of Americana is also a plains folk tale, expressing with charm and tenderness the possibility of an afterlife, or at the very least that there's always a lot more to life than meets the eye. — K. Thomas. (PG-13; language, violence, children in jeopardy.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. B+

"NOWHERE IN AFRICA": This Oscar-winning German film is a Holocaust survival story. Based on journalist Stefanie Zweig's memoir, this is one of the better-filmed examinations of Europeans in British colonial Kenya. The suffering is, in a historical sense, negligible. Yet the personal impact of the calamity is evoked with a jarring completeness. Three very lucky people get out of Nazi Germany in 1938, several months before things go irreversibly bad for Jews. This movie finds deep psychological insights where most just go hunting for big game. — B. Strauss. (NR; German with English subtitles; sex, nudity, language and racist language and actions.) 2 hours, 18 minutes. A-

"PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL": Johnny Depp is the best thing about this overblown pirate epic inspired by the Disneyland theme ride. You've never seen a pirate like Depp's Capt. Jack Sparrow. He prances, he flies; he seems like an escapee from "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." Keira Knightley (the tomboy from "Bend It Like Beckham") makes a winning love interest, but overall, this Jerry Bruckheimer production is a flashy, soulless bore. After two hours, it becomes a ride one desperately wants to get off. — M. Polk. (PG-13; action/adventure violence.) 2 hours, 23 minutes. C

"SEABISCUIT": There are missteps in writer/director Gary Ross' screen adaptation of "Seabiscuit," including some heavy, unnecessary doses of sentimentality, but in the end, they take a back seat to the way the movie makes you feel. Even if you know the outcome of every one of Seabiscuit's races from having read Laura Hillenbrand's best-selling nonfiction account of his career, the movie re-creates them so vividly that you still find yourself leaning forward, wringing your hands in fear the little horse won't reach the finish line first. Jeff Bridges and Chris Cooper are perfectly cast, and Tobey Maguire gets the job done. "Seabiscuit" is the kick in the pants this weak cinematic summer so desperately needed. — M. Polk. (PG-13; some sexual situations and sports-related violence.) 2 hours, 20 minutes. B+

"THE SECRET LIVES OF DENTISTS": The Hursts run a husband-and-wife dental practice where the staff refers to them as Dr. Dave (Campbell Scott) and Dr. Dana (Hope Davis), although their most chronically belligerent patient — a musician named Sister (Denis Leary) — refers to Dave as "Dr. Mengle." Director Alan Rudolph is clearly less interested in the real stars declared themselves through with this, leaving the acting to lesser cast members. — M. Polk. (PG; action sequences and peril.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. C-

"SWIMMING POOL": It's hard to make the process of writing interesting on film, but director Francois Ozon and actress Charlotte Rampling pull it off in this graceful and deceptively playful exploration of a writer's mind. Rampling is a dour Englishwoman who heads to her publisher's country home to find inspiration for her new novel; there she encounters his dissolute daughter. Beyond the personality clashes is a rich and compelling subplot, full of plot twists and a major hairpin curve at the end. — B. Nuckles. (R; strong sexual content, nudity, language, some violence and drug use.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. B+

"THE TERMINATOR 3: RISE OF THE MACHINES": John Connor (Nick Stahl) is 22 now, living a lonely life off the grid so the mean machines in the future can't find him. Instead, they send back the TX (Kristanna Loken), a beautiful killing machine, to eliminate the future savior of the world. The Terminator

is ested in Dana's secret than Dave's. Dana is having an affair and Dave knows it, but he doesn't confront her; he doesn't want to force a showdown because he would rather save his marriage than his pride. Anesthetized to his own life, Dave invents for himself a raging toothache in the form of an imaginary Slater, who hangs around with him, insulting him for his passivity. — B. Newman. (R; profanity, sexuality.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. C-

"SPELLBOUND": This Academy Award-nominated documentary is ostensibly about the National Spelling Bee, told through the stories of eight kids who made it to the 1999 finals. But that makes it sound so dry, and this is such a passionate and engaging movie. You fall hard for eight very distinct and somewhat peculiar children, and at the same time, are movingly reminded of all the best things about the melting pot and the American dream. Sharp, clever editing enhances the natural tension of the bee, and filmmakers Jeff Blitz and Sean Welch know how to use irony while remaining heartened and true to their subjects. — M. Polk. (G) 1 hour, 37 minutes. A

"SPY KIDS 3-D: GAME OVER": The sole reason to see this movie, beyond constant harassment by one's offspring, is that the movie is presented in 3-D. Other than that, this pale shadow of the first "Spy Kids" is as emotionally barren and irritating as the video game it takes place within. Juni (Daryl Sabara) must enter virtual reality to save his sister Carmen (Alexa Vega), from the clutches of the diabolical Toy-maker (Sylvester Stallone). Juni and Grandfather (Ricardo Montalban) get the most screen time, with Mom, Dad and the rest of the gang not showing up until the end. All of this makes us feel as though we are watching the 10th "Spy Kids" movie, the one in which all the real stars declared themselves through with this, leaving the acting to lesser cast members. — M. Polk. (PG; action sequences and peril.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. B+

"WEATHER UNDERGROUND": An intelligently assembled documentary about the infamous Weather Underground, a militant anti-establishment group from the 1960s, co-directed by local filmmaker Sam Green. The film lets the former Weathermen, now in their 50s and older, reveal some of their personal histories as well as what the peace movement meant to them. Captures the exuberance of the period, showing what a turbulent time this was. — E. Mitchell. (Not rated.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. B

"WHALE RIDER": A retelling of an old Maori legend about a tribe that believes its origins can be traced to Paikka, a man who arrived on their shores on the back of a whale. The name and tribal duties are traditionally passed on to the eldest male child of Paikka's descendants. But when a male baby dies at birth, along with his mother, leaving behind a twin sister, the lineage is disrupted. The baby's grieving father names her Paikka in defiance and leaves town. Twelve years later, Paikka (the enchanting Keisha Castle-Hughes) struggles to be accepted as leader by her traditional grandfather, Koro (Rawiri Paratene). This is a spiritual and inspiring movie that richly deserves the audience awards it won at the Sundance, Toronto and Rotterdam film festivals. — M. Polk. (PG-13; brief language, momentary drug reference.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. A-



H. HELEN MUIR (Maggie Franks, right) and her sister Helen (Annie Potter, left) are given a hand by their mother (Marsha Mercant) moments before a party with politicians begins, in a scene from John Muir's *Mountain Days*.

eater

PAGE C10

cept for Mulholland and all actors play multiple in their principal roles, Shaikhani as the cook Thomas as the cook particularly effective, sweeping, moving, and pocket-size antiwar

all, a rousing "Well and to down and two to A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum vaudeville-cum-burlesque — or togae, if not to be uppity about it — tonight at Alameda Light Opera.

The second of four productions that July at Contra Costa Theatre, El Cerrito, to Half Moon Bay later month, and won't give up Contra Costa Musical has its go at it on Oct.

story of the Roman-flamboyant should be familiar Pseudolus, a slave, is freed his freedom if he can

arrange a marriage between his master, Hero, and the boy's true love, the courtesan Philia.

But matchmaking is not as simple as Dolly Levi made it out in "Hello, Dolly." Her business cards said Social Introductions, but she put it more succinctly as she connived to snag Horace Vandergelder, "I meddle."

The Forum folks embellish their meddling with those old standbys of farce — mistaken identities, magic potions, double-entendres, slapstick and low comedy.

All this is set to the music and told through the lyrics of Stephen Sondheim.

Frederick L. Chacon, ACLO founder and managing director, holds the director's reins of this chariot race around the laugh track, with music under the direction of Dean Starnes.

Some interesting sidelights on cast members: Jeff Seaberg (Pseudolus) and Noah Haydon (Hero) are well-known to many people in the Bay Area, but wouldn't be recognized on the street. Both are busy voice actors.

Jeff is known to video-game players as the voice of Mad Max in the video game Freak Style, and the voice of Cole, the

batt-faced mercenary in Star Wars: Starfighter II.

Noah's commercial credits include such companies as Banana Republic, Microsoft and MTV.

Berkeley's Jennifer Graham is achieving the unusual and daunting feat of performing in all three of ACLO's summer productions. She plays Tintinabula in "Forum." She was Ethel Toffelmier in "The Music Man," and will be a member of the ensemble of "Sweeney Todd," opening in September.

"Forum" plays at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Aug. 24, with Sunday matinees on Aug. 17 and 24, at Kofman Auditorium, 2200 Central Ave., Alameda. Tickets are \$23 regular, \$18 for seniors and youths under 18. A special junior ticket at \$10 is offered for all Friday performances. Call 510-864-2256, or visit the Web site at www.aclo.com.

Send theater items of interest to Jack Tucker c/o the West County Times, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806; e-mail to jtucker@ctimes.com; fax to 510-262-2776, or call 510-262-2768. Include a contact name and number.



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the world, and a selection of hardwood tools he has made to work the blown glass. They're like oversized, uneven fingers that turn molten globes of glass into sculpture.

Clifford Rainey, now head of the glass program that Lipofsky set up at the College of Arts and Crafts, said Lipofsky was one of the few people experimenting with glass as a fine-art medium at the time.

"Marvin is unique," Rainey said, "and I don't think you can actually critique his work without putting the historical attachment to it." In the early 1960s,

Lipofsky worked with a mentor, Harvey Littleton, at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and there were other glass programs in Toledo, Ohio, and the Rhode Island School of Design.

"When he started out, there was almost no one else working in glass," Rainey said. "These guys were just inventing it as they went along. Every time they dropped something on the floor, it was new."

Robert Taylor covers fine arts for the Times. Reach him at 925-977-8428 or rtaylor@ctimes.com.

FRI, AUGUST 8, 2003 • J.V.M. •

(Arnold Schwarzenegger) follows, intent on saving Connor once again. Boy-bot and girl-bot duke it out. What makes this story work is the lively action, the steady sense of humor (Schwarzenegger has some zingy, campy lines) and endearing performances from Stan and Claire Danes, playing a love interest who would much rather be somewhere else. Not as spooky and cool as the first film, but a satisfying end to the saga that began in 1984. — M. Polk. (R; strong sci-fi violence and action, language and brief nudity.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. B

"28 DAYS LATER": As zombie movies go, director Danny Boyle's is somewhat unusual in that its scariest element may be how plausible its plague scenario seems. Animal activists accidentally unleash test chimpanzees infected with a blood-borne disease and a yen for violence (thanks to being force-fed terrible images). Within 28 days, all of Britain and perhaps the rest of the world, is infected, saved for a few plucky survivors, including naive Jim (Cillian Murphy) and the very plucky Selena (Naomi Harris). The second half of the film goes too "Lord of the Flies" on us and loses its spooky edge, but the film has a surprisingly wishful quality to it and promises to be a hipster cult classic, like Boyle's "Trainspotting." — M. Polk. (R; strong violence and gore, language and nudity.) 1 hour, 48 minutes. B+

"WEATHER UNDERGROUND": An intelligently assembled documentary about the infamous Weather Underground, a militant anti-establishment group from the 1960s, co-directed by local filmmaker Sam Green. The film lets the former Weathermen, now in their 50s and older, reveal some of their personal histories as well as what the peace movement meant to them. Captures the exuberance of the period, showing what a turbulent time this was. — E. Mitchell. (Not rated.) 1 hour, 32 minutes. B

"WHALE RIDER": A retelling of an old Maori legend about a tribe that believes its origins can be traced to Paikka, a man who arrived on their shores on the back of a whale. The name and tribal duties are traditionally passed on to the eldest male child of Paikka's descendants. But when a male baby dies at birth, along with his mother, leaving behind a twin sister, the lineage is disrupted. The baby's grieving father names her Paikka in defiance and leaves town. Twelve years later, Paikka (the enchanting Keisha Castle-Hughes) struggles to be accepted as leader by her traditional grandfather, Koro (Rawiri Paratene). This is a spiritual and inspiring movie that richly deserves the audience awards it won at the Sundance, Toronto and Rotterdam film festivals. — M. Polk. (PG-13; brief language, momentary drug reference.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. A-

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Arts & Leisure

Friday, August 8, 2003



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

Tracey Ullman's tour de force

ACTORS' NEUROSES, insecurities, egos and their mistreatment of others has long been a Hollywood staple, the subject of countless movies.

So why haven't the crews been singled out instead of the casts? Even the best of these behind-the-scenes movies, like David Mamet's delightful 2000 film, "State and Main," seem reluctant to lampoon movies' blue-collar support staff.

For example, "State and Main" featured Alec Baldwin playing a film star who was a serial womanizer; his co-star (played by Sarah Jessica Parker) was a self-absorbed diva; and the film's director played hilariously by the hyper-talented William H. Macy, was blithely oblivious to his staff, even ignoring one assistant's pleas for a day off whose wife was in labor.

It's about time someone had the nerve to poke fun at crew members. Who better than the irreverent Tracey Ullman?

In her new HBO special premiering Saturday night at 8, "Tracey Ullman in the Trailer Tales," the multitalented Ullman morphs into veteran Hollywood makeup artist Ruby Romaine. She inhabits Romaine with such brio that after awhile, you forget it's Tracey under all those layers of makeup and hair spray.

This is the best work I've seen yet from the talented but erratic Ullman, and another feather in HBO's cap for offering the most daring and original shows on TV.

The South London product, who's mastered Yank accents with unusual facility, co-wrote this funny script featuring a working-class gal chain-smoking as she recounts one goofy personal story after another. Actress Debbie Reynolds listens patiently in the makeup chair and tries to get a word in edgewise.

The back-slapping, gum-cracking Ruby, who's every bit as self-absorbed as the actresses she makes up — maybe more so — shows appalling insensitivity to a wide range of people as she hogs center stage — Jews, blacks, anyone with a scintilla of decorum.

When Cheech Marin sticks his head into her makeup trailer, for example, Ruby mistakes him for a custodian. After being told who Marin is, the boorish Ruby guffaws, "Twenty years ago, a Mexican couldn't get a job in this town without a leafblower on his back." Reynolds, in the makeup chair, just bites her tongue.

Ruby's son is a shellshocked Vietnam vet accompanied everywhere by his pet pig. Veteran character actor Paul Dooley is funny as Ruby's boyfriend.

Other notables paying homage to Ullman by making appearances in Saturday's wickedly funny Hollywood odyssey are Barbara Bain, Jane Kaczmarek (of "Malcolm in the Middle"), Rose Marie, and former "Laugh-in" producer George Schlatter.

Even when the HBO script isn't exactly subtle, it's still wickedly funny: NBC's awful reality show, "Fear Factor," for example, is thinly disguised here as "Turd Pile" — a far more accurate title.

Ullman's sharp-eyed portrayal of one member of Hollywood's working underclass seems like an instant classic. Don't miss it tomorrow.

It's been an even-worse-than-usual summer on TV. It's been dominated by cheap-to-produce reality shows, with NBC's "Cupid" being possibly the most mean-spirited.

But Fox's "101 Strangest Things Removed From the Human Body" last week has to be the weirdest summer offering yet. That special aired from 9 to 10 and was a terrible lead-in for KTVU's respected "10 O'Clock News."

After all, how do you segue from a story about a man who had a chicken-like fetus removed surgically that he supposedly carried for 26 years into a serious local newscast? Well, you don't.

Questions. Comments? E-mail Bill: Newsmann@sonic.net

Down that old dusty road

■ Ramblin' Jack Elliott brings music of Guthrie, American West to Freight

By Brian Kluepfel
CORRESPONDENT

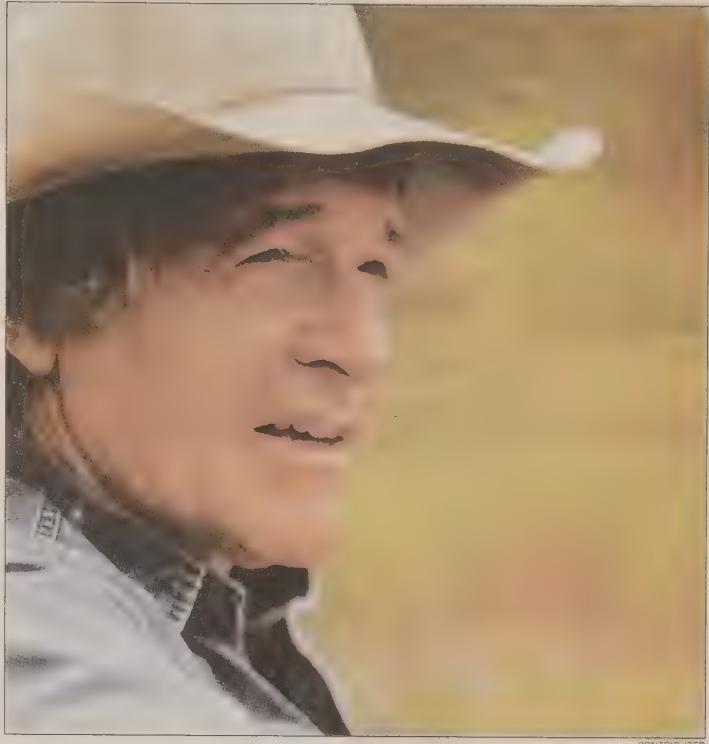
Ramblin' Jack Elliott is proof that you can be who you dream to be. Born 72 years ago in the body of Elliot Charles Adnopoz, a Brooklyn doctor's son, the fanciful youngster joined the rodeo at age 16, and hit the road permanently a few years later (someone convinced him to finish high school first). Six decades as a singing cowboy have, for better and worse, fulfilled the boyhood fantasies of a kid who more than once tried to sneak in the performers' entrance at Madison Square Garden's annual rodeo.

Perhaps Elliott's most significant contribution to folk music as is the standard bearer for Woody Guthrie's legacy; he was the man who bridged the gap between the legendary composer and the '60s folk revival. As Guthrie's health deteriorated from Huntington's chorea, Elliott became his pupil and protector, carefully assimilating all of Woody's stories and songs for as long as the Okie singing poet could share them. Guthrie's material remains an important staple of Elliott's repertoire to this day.

It's as an interpreter of others that Elliott made his mark: Guthrie's "Pastures of Plenty" and "Hard Travelin'" for starters, along with poignant versions of the late Tim Hardin's "If I Were a Carpenter" and "Reason to Believe." His intricate fingerpicking and keen, idiosyncratic vocals also put a definitive stamp on Bob Dylan's "Don't Think Twice, It's Alright." Famously, Dylan shouted "I relinquish it to you, Jack!" after hearing Elliott perform it in a nightclub.

As Jack had learned from Woody, so, initially, did Dylan learn from Elliott, so much so that he was billed as "Son of Jack Elliott" for one of his early Greenwich Village gigs. The relationship cooled as Dylan's ambition vaulted him to worldwide recognition, and Elliott's star dimmed. Sadly, Jack was nearly snubbed for the Carnegie Hall tribute to Guthrie when Woody died in 1967.

Decades on the road continued in a blur, funny stories leavened by broken marriages and death. "I never had a manager,"



RAMBLIN' JACK ELLIOTT preserved the musical legacy of Woody Guthrie, and in turn influenced Bob Dylan. He brings his own legendary talents to the Freight on Saturday.

CONCERT

■ WHAT: Ramblin' Jack Elliott
■ WHERE: Freight and Salvage, 1111 Addison St. (at San Pablo), Berkeley
■ WHEN: Saturday, Aug. 9, 8 p.m.
■ TICKETS: \$17.50 advance, \$18.50 door. Ticketweb 866-468-3399, at the box office 1-6 p.m. weekdays.

quipped Elliott. "I had four wives and wore them all out." Incidents like phoning in an entire concert from a Midwest booth contributed to his peripatetic and erratic legend.

The '90s have been kind to the white-haired minstrel: his girlfriend "Ramblin' Jan" has finally convinced him to settle down in Northern California, and record companies convinced him to get back in the studio after two

decades of self-imposed, somewhat bitter exile. The results speak for themselves: 1995's "South Coast" won a Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Recording, and 1998's "Friends of Mine" paired him with a range of his disciples from Arlo Guthrie to John Prine to Jerry Jeff Walker.

"Ramblin' Jack has himself become an American musical treasure," said President Bill Clinton, a fellow musician who's had a few marital problems of his own, when honoring Elliott with the National Medal of Arts in 1998.

The singer/guitarist achieved some measure of peace with his past through the 2000 documentary "The Ballad of Ramblin' Jack," made by his daughter Aiyana. The film captures not only the essence of Elliott's adventurous life, but the painstakingly brokered peace between daughter and father. His dedica-

tion of a song onstage to Aiyana and "all the bad fathers out there" is classic Ramblin' Jack: the sad truth lightened with a wink and a joke.

If it's a pre-planned, on-schedule show you're expecting, don't. "They call him Ramblin' Jack because he never stops talking!"

said Kris Kristofferson in the documentary. He can take as long to explain a song and tune his guitar as he does to play it, but the payoff is worth the wait. It may even be "Cup of Coffee," one of his few self-penned tunes:

just stopped in to have a cup of coffee
just stopped in to have a cup of coffee
don't gimme no whiskey, ain't got time for wine
got to roll on down the line.

Reach Berkeley freelance writer Brian Kluepfel at bkluepfel@hotmail.com.

Lipofsky opens his heart of glass

■ 40 years of works by the Berkeley artist show his clear-cut vision

By Robert Taylor
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A sprawling gallery at the Oakland Museum looks like a luxury-class jewelry store these days, with walls painted dramatic deep blue and precision-mounted spotlights giving the illusion that dozens of fascinating objects glow from within.

What exactly are they? Stylized organic sculptures that reveal the mysteries of the human body? Undersea creatures or oversize shells that have washed up on a distant beach? Exotic flowers discovered on a jungle expedition?

Welcome to the world of Berkeley artist Marvin Lipofsky in "A Glass Odyssey," a retrospective exhibit of his career. Lipofsky's blown, sculpted, sliced, etched, sandblasted and polished objects have taken on a life of their own over the last 40 years.

Lipofsky's no-holds-barred style has helped turn glass into an art form that is not precious, fragile or even useful — much as Bay Area artist Peter Voulkos wrestled clay into an expression of something earthy and gutsy.

Beginning in the early 1960s, Lipofsky was one of a handful of glass blowers and sculptors who established glass as an art form in the United States, following the lead of European masters.

Moreover, he established glass programs at UC Berkeley and the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, which in turn produced many of the artists



FINISHING TOUCHES: Marvin Lipofsky moves one of his pieces through the belt grinder in his studio.

who now work on their own in the Bay Area.

"I think they got the impetus toward experimentation from Marvin," said Philip Linhares, the Oakland Museum's chief art curator. "Before that, glass seemed such a static and difficult thing."

Ann Corcoran, partner with her husband Michael Nourout in Benicia's Nourout Glass, was one of Lipofsky's students at the College of Arts and Crafts in the 1970s.

"At the time, glass was handicraft, something you did in your garage — it was not considered art," she said. "Marvin tried to emulate the art glass masters of Europe, and he taught us to think globally."

Corcoran said that through his students, Lipofsky was a major influence in the growth of glass studios across the country. "People use to call him the godfather of American glass," she said.

Stephen Smyers, who set up the first glass-blowing studio in Benicia, did not study with Lipofsky's students, but said he has set a positive example for many artists. "He has stuck to his guns and only made glass art," Smyers said. "I really admire that — it's a tough thing to do."

The Oakland Museum retrospective is dominated by Lipofsky's shell-like sculptures, but there are early and fanciful works as well. Among them are small, chunky blown-glass objects that look as if they were formed with bare-knuckled hands (1963-64); mold-blown glass pickles in an amusing variety of colors (1972); and the innovative California Loop Series of the 1960s and '70s, including tubes and bulbs and soft-finish rayon flocking.

The big glass sculptures take

See GLASS, Page C9

See THEATER, Page C9



JACK TUCCIO
Community T

Muir and to sing und open sky to

TWO BIG OUT sicals open at John Muir's Days," celebrating spirit and adventure famed naturalist, be third season in John phitheatre, Waterfront Martinez.

Tonight's preview followed by performances Thursdays through at 8 p.m. through additional performances Wednesday, Aug. 26, Aug. 31.

Tickets are \$10-\$15 served seats. Discount seniors and groups of more. Grounds open for picnics and entertainment by Spinnaker Food and beverage on site. Phone 925- visit www.johnmuir.org.

"Evita," by Andrew Webber and Tim Rice, the rise to power of a monarch striking women streets to the first Argentina as the minister Juan Peron.

Plays this weekend on Aug. 14, 15, 17. Joe Schlesinger is the musical in Wood Amphitheatre in Oakland Road, Oakland.

Tickets are \$17-\$22 discounts for seniors. Call 510-531- visit www.woodamps.org.

FINE SHOW OF COURAGE: Shogun's current production of Brecht's "Mother Courage and Her Children" is one uncommon experience which every cast, setting, mood - into an epiphany of

This is the most able in light of the epic way it is staged through whelming sets. No players. And yet it can through sheer cohesion into a universal force.

Shotgun's "Mother Courage," the David translation, plays in noon (4 p.m.) in the amphitheater in John Muir Park. It will continue on Saturday and Sunday afternoons Sept. 14. And it's free!

A relatively small nine, directed by Parley, performs on the ground of this wood away on Southampton Boulevard. The set Michael Frassineti, nature's contributions trees, is minimal: a tent and Mother Courage's cart.

The requisite alienation effect is present in this production, but difference. The actors character to sing a song to deliver a didactic speech to the audience. Embraces and the mixtures with this hidden

Trish Mulholland's in her earthy interpretation of Anna (Mother Courage). An episodic gypsy life in the Thirty Years War, she earns her place through from the very abhor.

Shrewd, stolid and she loses all of her violence, but confident business, often swiftness in the war. The adults are played to good effect by Andy Alabian (Swiss) and Leith Burke (Elliott) and Larsen (Katriona), the

sheer threads of music: Henri Dutilleux's cordon; Josh Pollard "everything else" as grand adds in a typical touch — percussion act.

And then the magic to appear and grow through this hidden

Trish Mulholland's in her earthy interpretation of Anna (Mother Courage). An episodic gypsy life in the Thirty Years War, she earns her place through from the very abhor.

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Friday, August 8, 2003

Section D

MICHELLE KREBS
Sine's Freewheeling

Driving schools teach teens what parents cannot

MOTOR MATTERS
I'm not a fearful person, but I'm out of my wits at the thought of anything happening to my children. With a 15-year-old daughter who recently started driving, I'm not often these days.

She's apparently not frightened either. "Nothing's going to happen," she says when leaving house and my worry is shown.

A healthy dose of fear — or my respect — knowledge and experience were my hopes for her and enrolled her in the free teen driver school put on by Las Vegas' Driver's Edge and sponsored by Bridgestone/Firestone, Sprint and the American Automobile Association.

A half-day class held in a city this year teaches everyone how to drive. A daughter got her first hint of what she read the government rules in the workbook: every person is killed as a result of teen driving; 34 percent of those between age 16 and 19 remain car accidents; 20 percent of all passenger deaths occur in teen driving; on average, one classmate per year is killed in a car accident during high school; and half of new drivers will be involved in their first accident in their first year.

The class began. Under a coach on a stadium parking lot, a hundred young people had a recording of a 911 call about a horrific accident in Las

FREEWHEELING, Page D2



MOTOR MATTER

TOYOTA REDESIGNED the Camry Solara for 2004, improving its roominess, adding power, comfort, safety features and technology — all in a more stylish package for a reasonable price. It handles well on the open road and offers a smooth and quiet ride.

2004 Toyota Camry Solara offers more inside and out

MOTOR MATTERS

The word that best describes the redesigned Toyota Camry Solara is "more." More room, more luxury, more safety, more technology, more comfort, more power and more attractive.

The 2004 models are available in three grades: SE, SLE and SE Sport. This report is mostly on the SE model with a V6 engine that cost \$21,450 — and that's where more becomes less.

The price is \$1,035 less than the current model and will go on sale in mid-August.

The new look now has a more aggressive appearance with an arched roofline and a V-shaped grille with lower bumper lines. The design of the grille puts emphasis on the headlamps and the rear end has a smart "teardrop" shape.

The new model has 16-inch tires mounted on sharp-looking, alloy wheels. Once I saw this beauty, I wanted to see more.

The inside isn't disappointing, as the entire atmosphere is similar to what is expected in cars costing much more. The instrumentation is bright and clear, plus the heating,

TOM KEANE
Keane on Wheels

air conditioning with air filtration system and the sound system are easy to understand and operate.

Examining the coupe more closely, I found many desirable features such as daytime running lights, outside temperature gauge, low tire pressure warning and two 12-volt outlets.

The power door locks have an

anti-lockout feature with a driver-side power up-and-down window.

Standard equipment also includes fog lamps, anti-lock brakes, keyless entry system, cruise control, tilt-telescoping steering wheel and much more.

The seats have a deep contour that is comfortable and similar to the feel of a sports car seat. An attractive multi-function display provides various information including miles-to-go and elapsed time.

An XM Satellite radio system is available as an option, along with the latest DVD-based navigation

system. This system now has more than five million verified data points and is displayed on a 6.5-inch screen.

Even the rear seats are comfortable and roomy, although getting to them is not as effortless as in a sedan. This area contains the usual amenities, including cup holders but the seat I prefer is the one behind the steering wheel.

Where I find my biggest surprise is when I start the engine.

See KEANE, Page D2

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Friendship never dies with remembrance

MOTOR MATTERS

When Abe Miller's 1965 Corvette Sting Ray Roadster acquired antique status in 1990 it appeared virtually unchanged from the day he purchased it new in Phoenix, Ariz., back when Lyndon B. Johnson was president.

The unrestored, pristine condition of the car offered silent testimony to the care and attention Miller had lavished on it for a quarter century.

When he purchased the rally red car it had a base price of \$4,106 and came equipped with a white soft top and a white interior. The hardtop was also painted rally red.

Under the hood, which is hinged at the front of the car, is a 327-cubic-inch V8 engine. The Corvette was pretty well loaded

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

with optional extras including: tinted glass, AM-FM radio, power brakes, power steering, air conditioning, positraction rear axle, teakwood steering wheel, transistor ignition system, leather upholstered seats, telescopic steering column, auxiliary fiberglass hardtop, four-speed manual transmission, comfort and convenience group and cast aluminum knock-off wheels.

In 1991, during a visit with his close friend David Barnett and his wife, Sharon, Miller said that his physician had told him that he had only a few months to live.

He was looking for a good home for his

cherished Corvette. Since Miller was a bachelor and because he and Barnett had been car-buddies in Phoenix for more than 30 years, the choice was easily made.

"He wanted us to have his Corvette as a token of our friendship," Barnett explains. "Abe died in January of 1992, and he made sure we had possession of the car before he passed away." Barnett says. "So now we have a Corvette forever."

Records show that in 1965 Chevrolet built 8,186 Sting Ray coupes and 15,376 Sting Ray convertible roadsters.

"The only common option not on the car is the power window accessory," Barnett says. "Abe gave us a retrofit kit to install them, but I've never put them on."

Such an upgrade could be easily accomplished with no alterations necessary,

because the window switch would be located where the window hand crank is located. But then the car wouldn't be in the condition it was when Miller was owner.

As far as Barnett can determine, the only other options not on the car are off-road exhaust system, side-mounted exhaust system, special front and rear suspension, and powerglide automatic transmission. He reports that he can easily do without them on the 3,005-pound car.

The small block V8 produces a healthy 350 horsepower. From the hidden headlights at one end to the "only for cosmetic purposes" bumpers at the other, the Corvette is unbelievably original. The exceptionally nimble car rides on a 98-inch wheelbase.

"We have learned to cherish the car and have taken it on two 1,000-mile rallies. It runs flawlessly and never fails to draw an admiring crowd," Barnett reports.

The air conditioning is a welcome ac-

cessory during sunny-day southwest United States. In spite, the radio is vertical and conventional horizontal post-space-saving measure are those that serve as the inside door dashboard has a convenient bar for the passenger.

With 41,000 miles showing on the odometer, it remains all-original, the soft top that has been replaced by disc brake system which bars all stainless steel. It is not a car but it does exhibit a pleasant result of years of tender love and care.

When the Barnett registered their Corvette they left the Motor Vehicles with a license plates that express their gratitude. It reads (Thanks Abe).

"We always think of Abe when we drive the Corvette," Barnett says. "He maybe achieved a form o



THIS 1965 CORVETTE Sting Ray remains in its pristine original condition with 41,000 miles on the odometer.

Freewheel

FROM PAGE D1

Vegas. Then accident survivor, Ashley Biersach, hobbled to the front of the crowd on a crutch that helped her with the new prosthetic leg. The 18-year-old recounted the incident in graphic detail.

She'd left school at lunchtime with four friends. The girl driving lost control of the car at 60 mph and slammed sideways into a light pole. The front passenger died instantly and the driver died days later. All three of the back-seat passengers suffered serious injuries.

The accident crushed Biersach, breaking nearly every bone from the waist down. She had to have her right leg amputated and has undergone numerous surgeries.

"I think every time you get into a car. Remember this video. Remember my face," insisted a tearful Biersach. "It can happen to you. I'm living proof it can."

Though my heart ached for the girl, her message was music to my ears.

Jeff Payne, Driver's Edge president and

racecar driver, reinforced the message, noting that the number of teens under the tent represented the number of Americans who will be in an car accident that day. Many of these accidents occur because teens aren't taught to drive properly, he added.

"We teach you how to pass the test, not to learn to drive. We never prepare you for the worst-case scenario," said Payne who founded his traveling teen driving school a year ago.

On the track in the parking lot, instructors, all of whom are racecar drivers on weekends, guided the teens in BMWs through a series of cones. When the instructor yelled stop, they quickly brought the car to a halt using all of their might on the brakes, equipped with anti-lock brakes. On the move again, they stopped the car the same way but this time, they steered the car to avoid striking an imaginary object.

In the second series of exercises, the teens drove Chevrolet Camaros on a wet course. By driving the car fast and turning, they forced the car to understeer — when the front tires lose traction and the car goes straight instead of turns. Next, they pushed

the car into oversteer — when the rear wheels lose traction and the car fishtails. The students were taught to regain control of the car.

They were taught easy ways to remember what to do. "When in doubt, both feet out." Translated: no gas, no brake and keep steering. "In a spin, both feet in" — or brake. And always steer in the direction you want the car to go.

For some students, experiencing a car going out of control is scary. For others, it is fun. In the end, all of the young people clearly learned something. Most teenagers said they learned maneuvers they hadn't been taught in their driver training class or from their parents.

The half-day of training is not nearly enough, but hopefully the teens got the message that something can happen to them and they need to be careful, respectful and maybe even a tad fearful of what can happen when behind the wheel.

For more information on the Driver's Edge teen driving program, visit their Web site at www.drvrsedge.org or call toll-free, 877-633-EDGE.

Keane

FROM PAGE D1

Powered by a 3.3-liter V6 engine producing 225 horsepower linked to a five-speed automatic transmission, the combination is very quiet and smooth. Yet when flooring the accelerator pedal, the immediate response is more than expected.

Incidentally, the Solaris also is available with a 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine that produces 157 horsepower. That combination also offers a manual transmission.

I enjoy the way the Solaris handles. This car is easy to maneuver in a couple of ways.

On the open road the performance-tuned suspension,

which has been mounted on a sturdy frame to reduce vibration and harshness, provides a comfortable yet firm ride. For those desiring a more genuine sporty ride, the Solaris is available in the SE Sports model.

The other area of enjoyable maneuverability occurs when parking in a tight area. With an overall length of only 193 inches and a 35-foot turning radius this car is a pleasure to park.

In spite of its diminutive size, there is more than adequate storage space in the trunk. It seems the word "more" is the common denominator in describing this all-new Solaris.

Which leads me to conclude that when it comes to buying a stylish coupe, what more could you want?

2004 TOYOTA CAMRY SOLARA

Vehicle Type Five-passenger, two-door mid-size FWD

Suggested Retail \$21,450

Engine Type .24-valve, 3.3-liter V6 VVT-i/SMPI

225 at 5,600 rpm

240 at 3,600 rpm

Torque 107 inches

Transmission Five-speed automatic super ECT

Wheelbase 103 inches

Overall Length 193 inches

Overall Width 71 inches

(curb-to-curb) 35 feet

Curb Weight 3,417 pounds

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Personal Assistance Systems are a popular safety blanket

CHERYL JENSEN
Down the Road

MOTOR MATTERS
How important are Personal Assistance Systems that provide a mobile communications security blanket to drivers?

One gauge that answers this question is a new study showing 10 percent of owners renew the service that came with their new vehicle. The study is the J.D. Power and Associates 2003 Personal Assistance Services Report, which is based on the responses of more than 1,800 consumers who purchased a new vehicle in the U.S. over the past three years.

Approximately 10 percent of new vehicles sold in the United States over the past year were equipped with some type of personal assistance system, according to J.D. Power. These typically provide on-demand two-way communication and assistance between a driver and a central call center representative using the vehicle's electronics with Global Positioning System satellite technology and a hands-free cellular system.

By pushing a button the driver contacts a representative who can pinpoint the vehicle's exact location, send roadside assistance, contact emergency services or provide help getting from one place to another.

In addition, PAS systems typically offer a "mayday" feature that sends help when the vehicle is in an accident and an airbag deploys. Other options often include mobile phone services, concierge services, such as making restaurant or hotel reservations or locating the nearest ATM, remote door unlocking and the ability to locate and track the vehicle if it is stolen.

Some systems even offer remote vehicle diagnostics. If a warning light flashes, the center representative can send a signal to the vehicle asking the status of the engine's computer, which sends back any problem codes. The represen-

tative then recommends the appropriate action required, such as immediately turning off the engine or simply scheduling an appointment for service.

Currently the three companies that provide the majority of these services to automotive manufacturers are OnStar, ATX and Cross Country. OnStar is used by all General Motors brands that offer these systems as well as by Acura, Audi, Lexus and Saab. BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Lincoln use ATX; Volvo uses Cross Country.

Based on feedback from new-vehicle buyers, one-third of consumers are interested in having a personal assistance system on their new vehicle. In most cases these services are free for the first year; after that, owners must subscribe and pay a fee if they choose to continue the service.

"While the majority of PAS systems are found in luxury vehicles, they have recently become

See ROAD, Page D4

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Ford 100th anniversary F-150 a home run; price kept in ball park

MOTOR MATTERS

Ford is offering a 100th anniversary special in the same spirit as its early priced-for-mass-appeal Model-T-based pickups.

The deal is a 2004 F-150 pickup at a \$19,125 starting price. This matches the 2003 base model price, however the below-\$20,000 '04 is a Heritage model with carryover 2003 styling.

In its much-improved, all-new form, which offers a greater amount of standard features, F-150s are priced \$245-\$635 above comparable 2003 models. For instance, the base 2WD new-generation XL model starts at \$21,215. Pricing at the top of the 2004 F-150 lineup is \$35,570.

Holding the line on F-150 prices is impressive because of the new models' higher content and the estimated \$2 billion expenditure Ford is making toward rebuilding its legendary Ford Rouge Center in Dearborn, Mich.

Beginning in 2004, the 2005 F-150 will be built at the Rouge Center's Dearborn Truck Plant, an enormous facility featuring advanced manufacturing processes.

Ford is offering Regular Cab, SuperCab and SuperCrew configurations, as well as six trim levels (including Heritage) for the 2004 model year. Consumers have a choice of Heritage (XL and XLT), and new-generation XL, STX, XLT, FX4 and Lariat models.

Styleside and Flareside designs are offered, and cargo boxes are available in 6.5-foot, 8-foot and 5.5-foot lengths. The 5.5-foot bed is a SuperCrew standard and an option on STX, XLT and FX4 Styleside SuperCab models.

Propelling the F-150s are two Triton V8 engines. The 4.6-liter V8 is standard on XL, STX and XLT models, and the three-valve 5.4-liter V8 is standard on upper-crust FX4 and Lariat models. The 4.6-liter delivers 231 horsepower and 293 pounds-foot of torque.

The improved 5.4-liter generates 300 horsepower and 365 pounds-foot of torque. This is a boost of 40 horsepower and 15 pounds-foot of torque over the 2003 5.4-liter engine. Both engines are mated with a four-speed automatic transmission.

Along with healthy torque, the F-150s

TIM SPELL
Truck Talk

cargo-toting credentials are boosted via a 2-inch-higher-capacity cargo box. Despite its increased height, the tailgate features a torsion assist that allows one-handed manipulation.

Cab capacity also increased, with both the Regular Cab and SuperCab lengthened 6 inches. This offers SuperCab occupants an extra 6 inches leg-stretching space and ups the Regular Cab's behind-the-seat storage space to a 13-inch width.

Passengers in the rear of SuperCab models also will enjoy the added comfort of a seatback recline increased from 18 to 21 degrees.

The Regular Cab joins the SuperCab with dual rear-swinging doors to allow easier access to behind the seat storage. SuperCrew Models feature four full-size, forward-swinging doors. SuperCab models — XLT and above — offer the convenience of rear power windows in the access doors.

The "Built Ford Tough" slogan is conveyed with a more confident stance, high hood and beltlines, tall cargo box and beefier grille. XL, STX and FX4 models wear a rugged-looking crossbar grille, and XLT and Lariat grilles are filled with a more-refined mesh. Mocking the current Super Duty models, the beltline "steps down" just below the front-door windows.

Seventeen-inch wheels are standard on all but the Lariat model, which rolls on 18-inch bright aluminum wheels. A set of machined cast-aluminum 18-inch wheels is an FX4 option.

Along with vastly changed sheet metal, Ford takes a giant leap forward in interior design. The dashboard is the main eye-catcher and features striking two-tone "modular" styling with each model having a distinctive look.

Standard front seating is a 40/20/40-split bench. Captain's chairs are available on XLT and above models. Vinyl is standard upholstery on XL models. Cloth is available



FORD offers many new design features on the 2004 F-150 truck, with three cargo-bed sizes, six trim levels, three cab configurations and two Triton V8 engine options. This is a truck for the future and beyond

on XLs and standard on all other trim levels. Leather upholstery is an option on the FX4 and Lariat models.

F-150's innovative modular overhead rail system — standard on XLT and above models — is integrated into the headliner. It allows quick customization by snapping on modules such as two-way radio and flashlight holders, as well as first-aid and tool kits.

Philip Martens, vice president of product development, Ford North America, said F-150's engineering, styling enhancements and price should keep F-Series on track in sales.

"This just isn't a replacement for today's F-Series," Martens said. "It's a launching pad for where we're going in the future."

Road

FROM PAGE D3

available in mainstream vehicles as well," said Frank Forkin, partner at J.D. Power and Associates. "Since owners of non-luxury vehicles are less tolerant of added costs for optional features, we expect the industry renewal rates for PAS systems to decrease over the next few years to attract subscribers."

The J.D. Power report finds the majority of owners who choose to renew their personal assistance subscription do so for the safety and security benefits, often viewing the service as an additional insurance policy.

In addition, about 20 percent of owners who renew their services do so because they rely on the hands-free mobile phone services to make telephone calls while in their vehicle.

Not including phone calls, most owners report using their

system an average of less than once a month, mainly for route support and roadside assistance. Only 17 percent said they used the feature that gives them directions to an unfamiliar destination.

Those who renew tend to be older and more affluent than those who have chosen not to renew. One-third of those who renew report annual household incomes of \$200,000 or more.

Most owners do not renew because of the relationship between the cost and the value of the service. "It's not surprising that the primary reason owners choose not to renew their subscription is that they don't use the service enough to see the value in it," Forkin said.

"It is only those who place a high value on the insurance aspects of the feature who are willing to spend the \$15 to \$20 a month that most owners pay for the basic safety and security package."

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2003 SANTA FE Air Keyless Remote Alarm, Alloy, Cruise, AM/FM/CD, Power Windows/Locks/Heated Mirror

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Power versus aesthetics: Either is a winner

Y DAN NEIL
NY TIMES NEWS SERVICE

whole industries are devoted to crunching the numbers of car buying: J.D. Power & Associates puts out its Customer Satisfaction Index; the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety tabulates crash-test figures; enthusiast magazines use in-gnomic figures like a car's cornering ability measured in lateral g-forces. It's almost as if car buying is a rational exercise.

But, not, and Jaguar, for one, should be. By the numbers — acceleration, top speed and the elusive feel of technology — Jaguar falls short of its German competitors. Often not by much, and not in egregious ways, but enough so that in comparison tests staged by car magazines, even with decimalized data, Jaguars typically wind up in the basement.

Aesthetics often trumps arithmetic, however, and anyone cross-shopping the Mercedes-Benz E55 AMG and Jaguar S-Type will feel deeply, even painfully, divided. The E55 is mechanically superior — might be the best car on the planet — for, Pete's sake, just look at the Jag.

AMG: High-tech catapult

Both the E55 AMG (with a suggested price of \$76,000) and the Jaguar S-Type (\$61,755) are high-performance variants of their companies' mid-size luxedans. Within that narrow subset they have very different ownership experiences. The E55's primary appeal is dumbfounding power, 469 horsepower and 516 pounds-feet of torque, courtesy of a supercharged 5.5-liter V8 hand-built at the AMG factory in Affalterbach, Germany. That engine is signed by the technician who assembled it, for a hint of hot-rod culture.)

Endowed, the E55 is one of the two or three fastest production sedans in the world. Car and Driver clocked one from 0 to 60 mph in 4.3 seconds on its way to a quarter-mile time of 12.5 seconds, numbers that rival a Ferrari 360 Modena or Dodge Viper. Not bad for a fully loaded luxury sedan with an automatic transmission.

With 390 supercharged horses under the hood, the Jaguar is no paper tiger. The S-Type dashes to 60 mph in 5.4 seconds and crosses the quarter-mile stripe in 13.8 seconds — quicker than a non-turbocharged S11 or a Nissan 350Z. Yet the S-Type is certainly not in the E55's league. The Jaguar's appeal lies in its styling: everyday trim, the S-Type is a graceful blend of style cues from Coventry's days. The R package — with its tire-free body trim, aerodynamic side skirts, 18-inch alloy wheels filled with huge performance tires and a steel mesh grill that looks like chain mail — gives the elegant coupe a touch of lean malevolence. It's gorgeous.

There is a quality in the Jaguar, with its growl and classic "leaper" hood ornament, that hints at the deep mix of British culture with our notions of luxury and status. Consumers still see British style — its wacky flair, its clubby insouciance — as an opportunity to purchase prestige. AMG, the Mercedes division responsible for turning Benzes into plush and pricey pods, does not have its own styling division, so the E55 is not very distinct from ordinary E-Class. "Stealthy" doesn't do justice, and "dull" is simply unfair.

What is missing from the Mercedes' appeal is what the Jaguar offers in abundance: a poetic dimension, an evocative light that goes beyond flowing lines and good proportions. The E55 is, of course, an extraordinary automobile. For its density of technology, few cars can match it.

Press the keyless go button on the shift knob (the car's proximity sensors detect the presence of the key in the driver's pocket or bag) and the motor awakens in a throbbing cadence and cool metal rasp.

Around town, the E55 is stately, even mannered. But on the open road, just like a "pass."

The five-speed automatic transmission downshifts twice almost instantaneously and the needles jump. You feel yourself snared in the sport seat as if it were a jai alai basket and hurled into the scenery.

Type R: Power of style

The accompanying exhaust note — the barking cylinder and the whirring Teflon sides of the supercharger — sounds like contrapuntal harmony of a Winston stock car and an ultrasonic toothbrush.

Such a car would be a handful without many layers of automated computer controls and data processing. The E55's throttle, brake and steering wheel are all electronically linked to the car's main computers, which constantly evaluate the data stream from the car's multitude of sensors to modulate the anti-lock braking; adaptive-damping air suspension with ride-height control; electric stability control; speed-adaptive corner steering; and the brake-force proportioning system that optimizes braking among all four wheels, as well as stability systems.

Where the E55 has a high-strung urgency about it, the S-Type R is serene. The car's ride is firm yet supple, and body motions — as the car rebounds from one corner to another — are well controlled thanks to the two-stage shock absorbers, which stiffen as the driving gets

The Jag's speed-sensitive steering is weighted and accurate at speed, and thickly padded steering wheel feels in your hands. The car's four-wheel

disc brakes (augmented by an antilock function and stability control) are strong and reliable.

Spur the Jaguar to pass slower traffic, and it accelerates with real conviction, the supercharger atop the 4.2-liter V8 emitting a piccolo-shrill whine. Power is routed to the rear wheels via Jag's six-speed automatic transmission, which moves between gear cogs with syrupy smoothness.

The Jag has the agility and reflexes worthy of a grand touring sedan, but it is not hungry for Autobahn conquest like the E55. And Jaguar's technology can't compare with the Mercedes', with the E55's showy "Distronic" intelligent cruise control and optional "Drive Dynamic" seats, which pressurize air bladders in the backrest to compensate for g-forces as the car whips around corners.

But the Jag is a beautiful car that makes opening the garage door in the morning something to look forward to. That, and \$16,000 left in the checking account, makes a strong argument for the S-Type R.

To park these cars beside one another is, in effect, hold up a mirror: Which one sends you? Right brain, left brain? Venus, Mars? Head turning, heart pounding?

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Primitive way to test for a drain on car's battery that works

BY BRAD BERGHOLDT
KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

I have a 1993 Mazda Miata, which was rear-ended about five years ago. I leave the car for more than three days without driving, the car battery will go dead.

I took the car to a Mazda dealer and had a new battery installed and the electrical system checked.

They said that the current drawn by accessories, such as radio clock, dome light, etc., is within normal range. However, the car still has the same problem.

I have to disconnect the battery cable every weekend or when I leave for a vacation to prevent the battery from being drained. I just installed another new battery and each time I bring the car to the dealer, they tell me that it's OK.

Ngoc Nguyen, San Jose, Calif.

It sounds like your Miata is suffering from an intermittent parasitic current drain (an electrical device remaining on when it shouldn't), making it tough for the dealer to identify the cause.

All vehicles lose a very small amount of energy from the battery while parked in order to keep computer and sound system memories alive. As a rule of thumb, the parasitic loss should not exceed 50mA (thousandths of an ampere).

Here's a low-tech inexpensive way to find the drain: Purchase an unpowered 12-volt automotive test light at your local auto parts store (about \$10).

These resemble a clear-bodied ice pick with a cord exiting the handle. Start by wrapping electrical tape around the test light's metal probe except at the very tip, and don eye protection.

Next, with the ignition switch off (for 30 minutes before and during testing), both doors closed and the under-hood light disconnected, loosen but don't remove the negative battery terminal.

Attach the test light's alligator clip (at the end of the cord) to the battery terminal bolt and press the test light's panty probe firmly into the center of the battery post. Now wiggle the clamp loose and lift it upward-away from the battery post (it will climb the test light's insulated probe).

What we have done is brought the test light into series with the electrical system without interrupting any normal or abnormal drains.

If the test lamp lights, an excessive battery drain exists. If the lamp is very dim or off, the drain isn't present.

It might take several attempts to encounter the intermittent drain (lower the battery terminal back onto the post and retighten the clamp without disturbing the test-light connections).

When you do find an illuminated lamp, have a helper remove the Miata's fuses, one at a time, until it goes out. Then identify which devices share the fuse, and narrow the search to a specific device (perhaps the trunk lamp?) that is lighting.

making sounds or emitting heat.

If either of the test light's connections accidentally come loose while the battery terminal is removed, you might get a false "on" (reconnect the battery, wait 30 minutes and try again).

You'll also need to reset your radio stations and clock, and drive the car a ways so the engine computer can relearn adaptive strategies.

This primitive testing method might not be reliable on certain newer vehicles with complex electronic body controls, as a false "on" might occur.

Brad Bergholdt teaches automotive technology at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. E-mail him at under-the-hood@juno.com or write to him in care of Drive, Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, Calif. 95190.

Volkswagen Jetta GLI a family sedan that's fun to drive

BY STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

There's no arguing that American and Japanese manufacturers build some very satisfying sporty sedans, but for sheer driving satisfaction, the Europeans continue to lead.

Case in point: The 2003 Volkswagen Jetta GLI. It does everything a family sedan is supposed to do — rear seat room is a bit tight for adults, but fine for kids — but it also attacks winding back roads with such verve and enthusiasm that you forget this is a sedan.

Handling is just excellent. The gutsy six-cylinder engine is ready and willing, and a six-speed manual transmission maximizes the engine's power.

There are several Jetta models, with the GLI being the sportiest. If you care

less about performance than you do about saving money, the GL or midlevel GLS may be the way to go. The base GL starts at \$17,100, while the GLI starts at \$22,950.

The GLI is the only model to offer the six-speed manual transmission; if you want an automatic, look to the other Jetta models. The GLI also has a stiffer suspension and fat 17-inch tires on alloy wheels.

Jettas are available with your choice of four engines — the tepid 2.0-liter four-cylinder, a turbocharged 1.8-liter four-cylinder, a 1.9-liter turbocharged diesel and the 2.8-liter VR6, essentially a V6 with a slightly modified design. That engine comes in the GLI and the luxury-oriented, top-of-the-line GLX.

Inside, the GLI has supportive bucket

seats that were, in the test car, less covered, an \$800 option. It also includes a power moon roof and a nice sound system. No other options are available.

As mentioned, the rear seat is slightly cramped, but front seats are roomy, and the trunk, with 13 cubic feet of space, is about average for a car this size.

Romantic cars are available for money, which is, with shipping, \$250 for the test car.

Romantic, more powerful, more economical — if those are of paramount importance, the GLI is not your best bet. But to get a comparable car that is much fun to drive, you'd have to trade up to a BMW 3-series.

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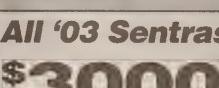
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All In Stock

2004 CHRYSLER PACIFICA AWD

Loaded.
All the toys

\$7500 OFF MSRP

Includes \$1000
Dealer markdown
payment from
Chrysler

2004 CHRYSLER SEBRING LX

UNBELIEVABLE!

\$14,995

MSRP
Discount
Rebate
Total

\$18,880
-\$1,885
-\$2,000
\$14,995

LET'S GO!

\$15,310

MSRP
Discount
Rebate
Total

\$17,310
-\$1,000
-\$1,000
\$15,310

2004 CHRYSLER SEBRING CONVERTIBLE

Limited
ALL
IN
STOCK!

\$4500 OFF MSRP

WOW!
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\$4500 OFF MSRP

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EXIT DUBLIN BLVD off 680 South. Next to Good Guys - Amador Plaza

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FINAL
DAYS!

SUMMER SALES DRIVE!

GIANT 2003 MODEL YEAR SELL DOWN

*Ask us about
additional
savings up
to \$1000

HUGE
SELECTION

PROMO

NEW DODGE CARAVAN SE

Don't Miss These Value Packed
7-Passenger Vans with
Automatic Transmission, Air
Conditioning, AM/FM Cassette
Stereo, Power Windows, Power
Brakes, Tinted Glass, & Much
More. Chrysler will match your
down payment up to \$1,000.00.
#38270456, 38102228,
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\$13,999
3 AT THIS SAVINGS
After Rebate

MSRP.....\$21,095
LITHIA DISCOUNT.....\$3,596
LITHIA SALES PRICE.....\$17,499
FACTORY REBATE.....\$2,500
NET COST TO YOU.....\$13,999

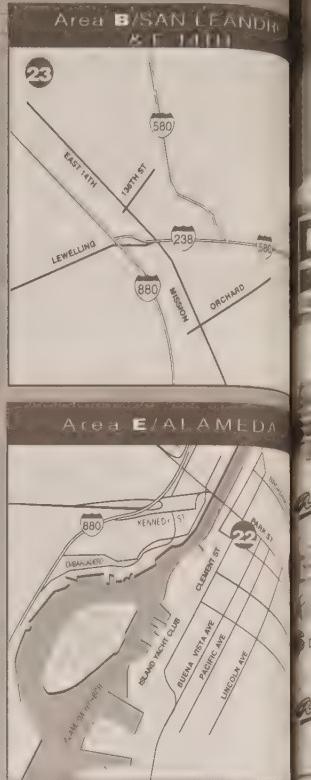
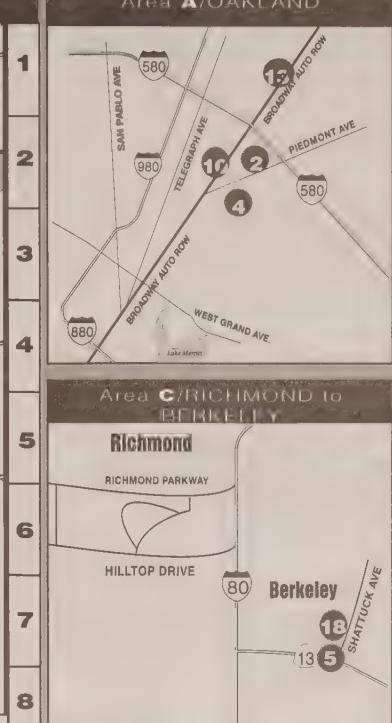
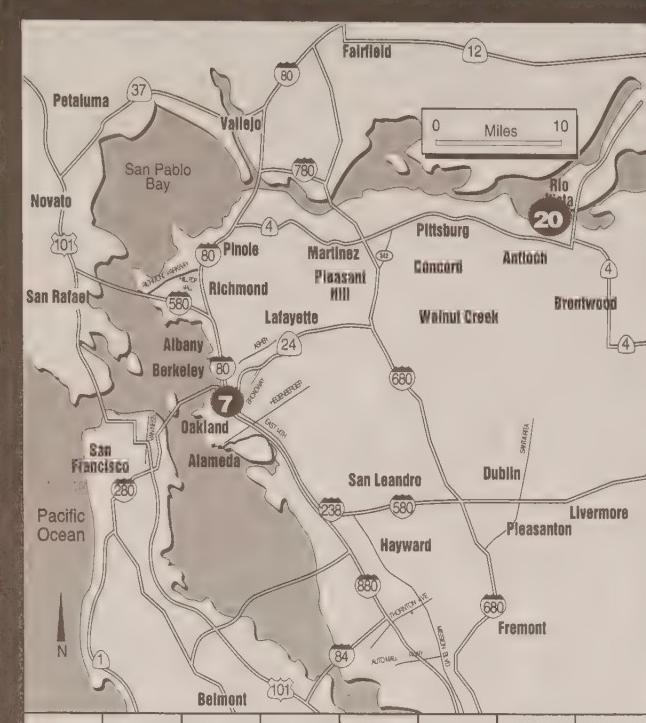
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70,000 MILE
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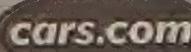
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DUBLIN NISSAN THE CHOICE DEALER

2000 OFF MSRP
and 0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS
On Approved Credit
0% APR financing for 60 months at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000 financed. \$0 down payment.

ALL IN STOCK!

Drivers wanted.

2003 NISSAN FRONTIER XE-V6 CREW CAB LONG BED
NET COST \$20,888 2 at this price
OR 0.9% APR AVAILABLE FOR 60 MONTHS ON APPROVED CREDIT
0.9% APR financing for 60 months at \$17.05 per month per \$1,000 financed. \$0 down required.

1500 OFF MSRP
and 0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS
On Approved Credit
0% APR financing for 60 months at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000 financed. \$0 down payment.

2003 NISSAN JETTA GLS SEDANS & WAGONS IN STOCK 2.0 & 1.8T
1000 OFF MSRP
and 0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS
On Approved Credit
0% APR financing for 60 months at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000 financed. \$0 down payment.

1000 OFF MSRP
and 0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS
On Approved Credit
0% APR financing for 60 months at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000 financed. \$0 down payment.

DUBLIN VOLKSWAGEN THE CHOICE DEALER **1-877-517-1670**
www.dublinvw.com
6085 Scarlett Court, Dublin

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2003 NISSAN XTERRA SE 4X4
NET SAVINGS \$4,500 2 at this savings
AND 1.9% APR AVAILABLE FOR 60 MONTHS ON APPROVED CREDIT
1.9% APR financing for 60 months at \$17.49 per month per \$1,000 financed. \$0 down required.

2003 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5S
\$3,000 OFF MSRP 2 at this discount
PW/LOCK/TILT/AC/CC/CD/ REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY
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2003 NISSAN SENTRA
NET SAVINGS \$4,000 3 at this offer
OR 0.9% APR AVAILABLE FOR 60 MONTHS ON APPROVED CREDIT
0.9% APR financing for 60 months at \$17.05 per month per \$1,000 financed. \$0 down required.

2003 NISSAN PATHFINDER LE 4x2, 4X4
NET SAVINGS \$6,500 All In Stock
OR 0.9% APR AVAILABLE FOR 60 MONTHS ON APPROVED CREDIT
0.9% APR financing for 60 months at \$17.05 per month per \$1,000 financed. \$0 down required.

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0% APR for 60 months or rebates such as \$4,500 on select '03 models. On approved credit. \$0 down required.

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2003 DODGE DURANGOS
\$7500 NET SAVINGS OR 0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS
On Approved Credit
0% APR financing for 60 months at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000 financed. \$0 down required.

2003 DODGE RAM HEMI 1500 SLT QUAD CAB 4X2
\$7500 NET SAVINGS OR 0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS
On Approved Credit
0% APR financing for 60 months at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000 financed. \$0 down required.

2003 DODGE NEON SXT
0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS
On Approved Credit
\$2,500 REBATE
0% APR financing for 60 months at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000 financed. \$0 down required.

2003 GRAND CARAVANS V-6
\$6500 NET SAVINGS
4 AT THIS SAVINGS
OR 0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS
On Approved Credit
0% APR financing for 60 months at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000 financed. \$0 down required.

2003 DODGE DURANGO 4x4 R-T Demo
\$30,440 NET COST
1 AT THIS PRICE
0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS
On Approved Credit
OR \$4,500 REBATE
0% APR financing for 60 months at \$16.67 per month per \$1,000 financed. \$0 down required.

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BEST CHOICE '9,988 '00 DODGE INTREPID SE SEDAN 223822 '01 BUICK CENTURY SEDAN 208093 '01 FORD TAURUS SES 232935 '02 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX SE 232072 '99 HONDA CIVIC EX COUPE 013551 '98 HONDA CIVIC EX COUPE 127058 '01 INTREPID SE SEDAN 705277 '02 TOYOTA COROLLA CE Z58778 '98 HONDA CIVIC EX 0020	BEST CHOICE '14,985 '00 MAZDA MILLENIA "S" 602778
BEST CHOICE '10,988 '00 DODGE CARAVAN 888188 '01 CHEVY VENTURE VAN 297034 '00 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT 205792 '02 TOYOTA COROLLA CE RENTAL 587781	BEST CHOICE '15,988 '00 VW PASSAT GLS 088789
BEST CHOICE '20,988 '01 NISSAN PATHFINDER 3.0L 4X4 708143 '01 NISSAN PATHFINDER LE 4X4 708143	BEST CHOICE '22,988 '02 NISSAN PATHFINDER SE 4X4 702555

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4BD/2BA Round Hill C.C. Like new, cul-de-sac, \$3000. 525-376-7700

4BD/3BA

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5BD/3BA AC, gar. fen. v.a.c., frplc., spa, lg. deck, \$2400/mo. 925-831-2428

Albany Homes

1BD, remod. lg. yd., nr. water, no sec. \$252 + dep. 506 K. St. 925-777-1821

Antioch Homes

1BD, remod. lg. yd., nr. water, no sec. \$252 + dep. 506 K. St. 925-777-1821

4BD/2BA

Jilly remodeled, new remodeled, 2000sf, \$2500/mo. grdr. incl. 408-813-1119

2BD, 2 car, \$1000.

753-0700. 2BD, carpet \$1000. 2 car, \$1000.

3BD/1BA

1000+ sf, clean, dep. \$1500. No sec. 8 ft. 925-757-5941

3BD/2BA

2 car, gar., AC, \$1350-\$1300. dep. 925-757-5941

3BD/2BA

approx. 1700 sf, Nonsmkg, Frplc., corner lot, dep. \$1350. 408-838-3917

3BD/2BA

1000+ sf, clean, dep. \$1500. No sec. 8 ft. 925-757-5941

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3BD/2BA

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NOTICE: Businesses and individuals offering construction related services with a cost of \$500 or more are required to possess a California State Contractor's License.

For further information contact the California State Contractor's Licensing Board at 1-800-321-2752



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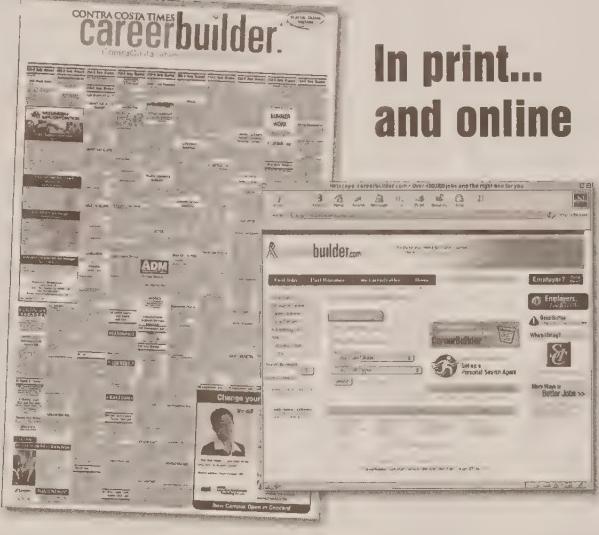
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Cont. 3-4 days/wk. Must

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CAREGIVER for senior.

Pvt. flexible hrs. Must keep

CDL & refs. NO

CAREGIVER/Mom's helper

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Ref. 925-413-8037

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Appliances. Must have valid

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in Alameda. Ref. 925-413-8037

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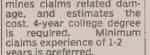
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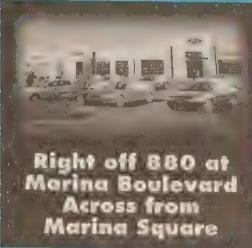
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MSRP	\$27,95
Dealer Discount	\$5,20
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EXPLORER LIMITED



4x4, V8 Engine, Auto., Air Conditioning, 3rd Row Seat,
Rear DVD Entertainment System, 17" Chrome Wheels.

\$8,000 NET SAVINGS

5 at this savings.

Dealer Discount off MSRP	\$5,600
Factory Rebate	\$3,000
Net Savings	\$8,000

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F250 CREW CAB XLT



V10 Engine, Air Conditioning, Alum. Wheels,
Premium CD, 6 Way Power Seat.

\$8,100 NET SAVINGS

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#078642/2255,
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Dealer Discount off MSRP	\$5,600
Factory Rebate	\$2,500
Net Savings	\$8,100

2003

EXPEDITION EDDIE BAUER 4X4



V8 Engine, Auto Trans, Ent. DVD System,
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HAYWARD

Backyard kitchens — a guy thing

BY VALERIE TAKAHAMA
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Joe Del Toro Jr. spent months imagining his dream kitchen.

In his mind's eye, he saw professional-grade Viking appliances, solid and sleek in stainless steel, gleaming smartly. The countertop, in tile the golden color of baked pie crust, had accent squares decorated with apples and lemons, a nod to his livelihood as a fruit and vegetable wholesaler. Lighting fixtures hidden beneath the counter's cantilevered shelves gave off a warm, inviting glow.

Plus, the floor could be clean with a few squirts of a garden hose.

Yes, Del Toro's dream kitchen is a \$14,000 outdoor kitchen, complete with a 41-inch Viking barbecue grill, a double side burner, warming drawer, storage drawers, sink and beverage center, refrigerator, several electrical outlets for blenders and Crock-Pots and a built-in stereo system — all encased in a structure that builder Dennis Pompey of Advanced Landscape and Maintenance in Brea, Calif., assures you is strong enough to dance on top of.

"He loves to barbecue, and we love to entertain. This is his kitchen. Mine is inside, and his is here," says Joe's wife, Robin, standing next to

the 30-foot-long kitchen counter beside the pool at the couple's Yorba Linda home. It's a hot Thursday evening. Her husband is grilling thick T-bones and asparagus spears for dinner. She's not complaining.

These days, a lot of men like Del Toro are getting their dream kitchens. That's right, the guys in the toques and the Kiss-the-Cook aprons are no longer relegated to the farthest reaches of a smoky back yard. With more and more people building outdoor kitchens — complete with flat-screen TVs and wood-burning pizza ovens — cooks manning the grill are now the center of the party.

What's more, with the ease and quickness of gas barbecues and with more foodies picking up marinade recipes from Bobby Flay and watching "Hot Off the Grill" on the Food Network, barbecuing is no longer only a holiday or summertime fling. It's a year-round, weeknight activity.

Barbecue salespeople and building contractors say they're benefiting from a couple of trends: People seem to be traveling for pleasure less and entertaining at home more, and they're willing to invest in property upgrades given the upswing in the real-estate market.

So, they say, outdoor kitchen with top-of-the-line Jenn-Air and Viking

grills and outdoor living rooms with brick or stone fireplaces and plenty of built-in seating are even hotter than the backyard-fire-pit craze of the '80s. They're the latest example of the indoor-outdoor style that's long marked Southern California living.

To see that style in action, check out the back yard of Dave and Jill Paul's Laguna Beach, Calif., cottage. Built in 1930 by architect Roy Ropp, who designed the town's Presbyterian church, the house features a fanciful outdoor fireplace with an off-kilter alignment of bricks and grout oozing from every nook and cranny.

"The fireplace we use all the time. It's a wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors when the temperature drops," Jill says.

When Dave bought a fancy DCS five-burner barbecue this year, his son Morgan Augustus copied the fireplace's distinctive look to install it. Now, Dave grills butterflied leg of lamb and other specialties in an outdoor kitchen that mixes folk-art charm with the latest in modern technology.

"The idea was to have a 21st-century barbecue in this yard but make it look like it was always there," Jill says. "The intention was to make it fit in with the age of the fireplace."

Still, the more things change, the more they stay the same. Without



H. LORREN AJ. JR./ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER
ROBIN AND JOSE DEL TORO, JR., relax in their Yorba Linda, California, backyard. Their massive outdoor kitchen features 120 square feet of counter space.



H. LORREN AJ. JR./ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER
JOSE DEL TORO, JR., of Yorba Linda, California, fires up his Viking 41-inch barbecue with side burners, food warmer, beverage center, undercounter lighting and storage areas.

falling into Maxim-magazine stereotypes, the purchase of barbecues and the grilling itself is still largely a guy thing.

"My husband has the barbecue. I have the microwave," Jill says.

Many guys are willing to admit that a man's place is in the (outdoor) kitchen.

"As far back as I can remember, my grandfather or father has always been responsible for cooking over an open flame," says Bob Taddeo, who dreamed about an outdoor kitchen for 15 years before installing one in the yard of his Fountain Valley, Calif., home last year.

"Once we're out there, beer in hand, for a few minutes at least, we're the ones responsible for dinner."

Augustus, of Morgan Augustus Masonry in Irvine, Calif., has built dozens of alfresco kitchens and can talk tri-tip cooking techniques with the best of them. He traces man's affinity for barbecuing straight back to the days of the cavemen.

"It's the whole quest-for-fire thing. The reason man came up with fire is to grill meat," he says.

These days, grilling is a lot more sophisticated than two sticks and a shank of woolly mammoth. Places like Barbeques Galore stock upwards of 80 models. And even guys who claim to hate shopping seem to enjoy checking out the grills.

"We're Nordstroms for men," says Brett Maister of Barbeques Galore, where the walls are decorated with plastic kangaroo heads made to look like big-game trophies and sales

brochures are stoked with puns like "Smoking the competition."

That sort of lingo doesn't come out of nowhere.

"Guys like to invite the neighbors over and go, 'Look what I have!'" says Alex Valdes, of Anaheim Patio and Fireside in Huntington Beach, Calif. "The bigger the grill, the better. There's an ego thing involved."

And there are statistics to back up Valdes' observations. A survey conducted by Weber Grills and released last month showed that a quarter of barbecue owners in the United States want grills that are bigger and more expensive than their neighbors.

So it's no wonder that guys tend to shop for barbecues like they do stereo equipment and camera gear, by becoming nearly obsessive about the array of available features, which in barbecues include removable smoker trays, infra-red burners, electronic multi-spark ignition systems and a ceramic tile "flame tamer" system.

It used to be that the major choice was charcoal or gas. Now, the decisions have multiplied: stainless steel or black or green; built-in or freestanding on casters; burners with heat-generating capacity of 10,000 BTUs or those with 75,000 BTUs.

And that's just the grill. There are high-powered burners for woks, trash compactors, heaters and more.

"Almost anything you see in an indoor kitchen, you can get in an outdoor kitchen," says Bob Blakely, of

Barbeques Galore

And some things you'd

normally see in a kitchen

"Beer taps," he says. "Coming very, very popular."

In outdoor kitchens, movement is generally fitted forced-concrete structures look like a kitchen counter for subtle differences.

"The normal kitchen is 36 inches. We bring it up to 42 inches. We bring it up to 48 inches. We bring it up to 54 inches. We bring it up to 60 inches. We bring it up to 66 inches. We bring it up to 72 inches. We bring it up to 78 inches. We bring it up to 84 inches. We bring it up to 90 inches. We bring it up to 96 inches. We bring it up to 102 inches. We bring it up to 108 inches. We bring it up to 114 inches. We bring it up to 120 inches. We bring it up to 126 inches. We bring it up to 132 inches. We bring it up to 138 inches. We bring it up to 144 inches. We bring it up to 150 inches. We bring it up to 156 inches. We bring it up to 162 inches. We bring it up to 168 inches. We bring it up to 174 inches. We bring it up to 180 inches. We bring it up to 186 inches. We bring it up to 192 inches. We bring it up to 198 inches. We bring it up to 204 inches. We bring it up to 210 inches. We bring it up to 216 inches. We bring it up to 222 inches. We bring it up to 228 inches. 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Restaurant captures the essence of Italian cuisine in new entrees

NAPS
delizioso selection of appetizing authentic Italian fare is offered in the expanded menu at one of America's most beloved restaurants.

Such distinct ingredients as pancetta and sage, Olive Garden's new entrees capture the taste of Italian cuisine. A passion for dishes prepared with fresh ingredients is reflected in the new entrees: Three-Cheese Stuffed Chicken Siena, Castellina and Salmon Piccata.

Many of the dishes on the menu are inspired by the Olive Garden di Fizzano restaurant and Olive Garden's Culinary Institute of Italy. To learn more, visit olivegarden.com.

Olive Garden's CHICKEN CASTELLINA

Chicken ingredients:
1 1/2 pounds skinless boneless chicken breasts, cut in 1 to 1-1/2 pieces
1/2 cups flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/2 cup olive oil

2 oz. white wine
1 1/2 pounds cooked pasta
fresh parsley, chopped
Castellina sauce ingredients:
2 ounces bacon, diced
3 ounces butter, cubed
1 teaspoon garlic, chopped
2 ounces sun-dried tomatoes, diced
12 ounces heavy cream
12 ounces milk
1 ounce cornstarch
2 ounces grated Parmesan
3 ounces smoked Gouda, chopped
3 ounces mushrooms, sliced
8 1/2 ounce can sliced artichokes, drained
1 tablespoon fresh rosemary, chopped
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Sauce preparation:
In a 3-quart sauté pan or large pot, sauté bacon over medium/high heat until crisp and golden (not dark). Lower heat, add butter and melt. Add garlic and sun-dried tomatoes. Sauté for approximately one minute stirring frequently (do not brown).

Whisk in cream, milk and cornstarch. Raise heat to medium/high.

Whisk in Parmesan and Gouda. Once cheese melts, add remaining ingredients and bring to a boil, stirring continuously. Remove from heat and let stand uncovered.

Chicken preparation:
Mix flour with salt and pepper. Coat chicken in seasoned flour, shake off all excess flour.

Heat olive oil in large sauté pan. Add chicken in a single layer and cook until golden brown on both sides (approx. seven minutes). Using a meat thermometer, make sure the internal temperature of the thickest piece of chicken reaches 165°F.

Add wine to pan (caution: there will be a low flame in pan). Toss gently until wine is evaporated. Once reduced, bring to a boil on medium/high heat.

Place 6 ounces of cooked pasta on each plate. Evenly distribute chicken and sauce over pasta. Garnish with chopped parsley. Makes 4 servings.

SIGNATURE ITALIAN DISHES
like Olive Garden's Chicken Castellina reflect a passion for fresh ingredients.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OLIVE GARDEN

Hawaiian

PAGE 1

<http://www.alohashirtshop.com>
Based in California, this site sells shirts for men and women, dresses, interior decor and accessories.

<http://www.alohahawaiian.com>: This site based in Hawaii includes classic shirts and more.

<http://www.rainbowhawaii.com>: In Hawaii, this site specializes in shirts and other apparel in the state.

<http://www.islandsirts.com>: Shirts made to order from this company.

<http://www.reyns.com>: This Web site for Hawaiian clothing Reyn's, which opened Waikiki Beach in 1959. The store makes and sells Aloha shirts.

<http://www.beanteacher.com>: Shirt collectors Lisa and Neal Anna, this site offers vintage Hawaiian shirts, bowling and themed shirts.

<http://www.alohavintage-shirts.com>: Find a variety of vintage Hawaiian shirts dating to the 1930s.

Aloha shirt history

The 1920s: Hawaii, which already had a rich history in the fabric and garment industry, was the place of the aloha shirt. Students and local residents began wearing loose, flowery, colorful shirts.

The first were made of the material used for Japanese shirts.

Through 1950s: Con-

sidered the golden age for aloha shirts, the Hawaiian garment industry sold creations to tourists and movie stars.

World War II: The war prevented importing fabrics and tourism slowed in Hawaii, but it did make the shirts more famous in the rest of the United States when soldiers brought them home.

1947: Honolulu city and county employees were allowed to wear aloha shirts to work. This led to a long push in the state to allow people to wear aloha shirts to work to promote the state's clothing industry.

Today, there is Aloha Friday and Aloha summer, when business people don the shirts.

1953: Montgomery Clift made the aloha shirt he wore in the death scene of "From Here to Eternity" famous. The shirt from Cisco Casuals Duke Kahanamoku collection had a dark background, coconut trees and mountains.

On vintage collector Web sites, the shirt is referred to as the famous Montgomery Clift death scene shirt.

1960s: Shirt patterns depicting carefree island life began to change to reflect changes in society. The reversed shirt was first sold at Reyn's, a menswear store in Hawaii.

1980s: The shirt was made popular again by the TV show "Magnum P.I.," starring Tom Selleck.

Today: The shirt is seeing a resurgence again and can be found in department stores, specialty shops and via the Internet.

Sources: "The Aloha Shirt" by Dale Hope, vintage shirt collector Neal Nakama, Aloha Fun Wear.

Some kids really do think that money grows on trees, magically comes out of machines or exists in unlimited quantities on credit cards. Sometimes, even adults do.

That's why it's important to teach children the value of money (and saving it) early on. As soon as kids can count and know the difference between coins, you can teach them a little bit about dollars and cents.

Kids need to understand that people work hard for their money. If you shape your financial awareness early on, you can influence their attitude toward money. Here are some ideas for you:

■ Play games that teach saving skills like addition, subtraction and counting. Play store by putting price tags on items around the house, and let your child figure out which coins or bills he needs.

■ Post a chart on the refrigerator or in your child's room listing money equivalents. Play pretend bank with him, and help him exchange coins, like pennies for nickels or quarters for dollars.

■ Share your home finances

with your children. When you are writing a check, explain how it works. Let them in on how you budget and save. Explain why perhaps you pass up the convertible for a minivan or get generic brands from the supermarket. Emphasize that you have to budget regardless of how much or how little money you have.

Some kids really do think that money grows on trees — sometimes, even adults do.

■ Give kids an allowance to teach them to budget, spend and save. Amounts vary depending on the child's age and where you live. Some money should go to savings and others for expenses you jointly decide on, like movies or clothing.

If he wants something big like an expensive toy, teach him how much he needs to save each week to buy it.

■ When your child wants to purchase something in a real store, help her count her money out, hand it to the cashier and get her change. It's a hands-on way to teach her how to handle money properly.

■ Open a savings account for allowances, birthday gifts and other money. Let your children fill out the deposit slip, and explain the concept of interest. You can also help kids balance their checkbooks. Explain that banks protect money and

help it make more money.

■ Let older children follow a stock in the paper or online. They can pick companies they know to make it more enjoyable for them.

■ Have children help you decide where to donate your family funds and part of their allowance. Once a month, gather up charitable solicitations, and let children decide what organizations the family will contribute to and why.

Of course, teach kids that the best things in life are friends, family and love, which don't require dollars and cents but instead come free of charge.

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Dinner tonight: Mexican burgers

BY RENEE ENNA
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Burgers on the grill are a summer staple, and these easy patties get a flavor boost from Mexican ingredients including cilantro, jalapenos and (an optional) shot of tequila. What's more, there are so many ingredients incorporated into this burger that a ground meat substitute — which typically tastes bland — is a viable alternative for vegetarians.

Remember that most of a chili pepper's heat resides in its seeds. Discard them if you prefer a milder flavor.

Menu

Mexican burgers
Three-bean salad
Slices of honeydew melon
Mango sparklers or Mexican beer

Tips

It's easy to make low-calorie non-alcoholic sparklers: Fill half a glass with diet tonic water; add a few ice cubes, then top it all off with choice of fruit juice. Many exotic juice varieties — mango, guava and myriad fruit combinations — are sold in supermarket.

If you don't have time to doctor the beef for these burgers, buy a bottled salsa or flavored condiment for an easy ingredient spike.

MEXICAN BURGER

1 pound ground beef
1 egg
1/2 cup finely chopped cilantro
1 jalapeno, finely chopped
1 medium onion, finely chopped
1 teaspoon each: salt, tequila
1/4 teaspoon each: ground red

pepper, freshly ground black pepper

8 slices sourdough bread
1 each, sliced: tomato, avocado

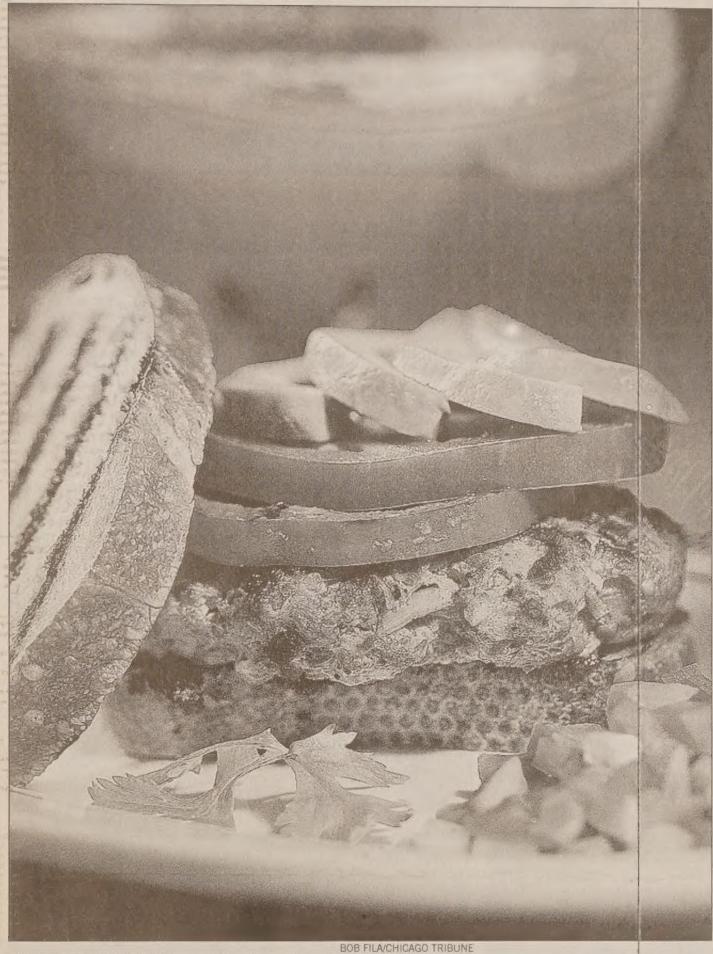
Salsa, mustard

1. Prepare grill over medium heat. Combine ground beef, egg, cilantro, chili, onions, salt, tequila and ground peppers in large bowl. Divide into four patties.

2. Grill burgers 4 minutes; turn. Grill to desired doneness, about 4 minutes for medium. Toast bread lightly on grill, if desired.

3. Place 2 toast slices on each of four plates; top one of the slices on each plate with a burger. Top burger with avocado and tomato slices. Serve with salsa and mustard.

Preparation time: 20 minutes, cooking time: 8 minutes, makes 4 servings.



THESE EASY PATTIES get a flavor boost from Mexican ingredients including cilantro, jalapenos and a shot of tequila (optional). A ground meat substitute is a viable alternative for vegetarians. Remember that most of a chili pepper's heat resides in its seeds. Discard them if you prefer a milder flavor.

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FOLKLORIC TOPS ARE POPULAR at Kmart for the back-to-school season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KMART

A class act: Back-to-school trends

NAPSI

Back-to-school fashion for 2003 includes a number of important trends; so while you're preparing to hit the books, don't forget to include Fashion 101 in your studies.

For Her

Athletic Chic-Athletic and leisure styles and details are showing up on everything from T-shirts to mini skirts. Anything with lace-up embellishment, side stripe or cargo styling captures the trend to a "T." And, don't forget the matching track suit—they're everywhere: in fabrics from velour to satin. Check out:

- Football and athletic-inspired graphic T-shirts;
- Zip-front hooded jackets;
- Side-stripe knit pants;
- Denim mini skirts; and
- Cargo pants, including those with military details in canvas, twill, nylon or satin.

Folkloric Finds: This season's folkloric trends include a rich, autumnal color palette and plenty of embroidery and fringe. Try peasant tops and tunics with detailed, fashion denim. Other ideas include:

- Tunics and peasant tops with ethnic-style embroidery;
- Lightweight tunic sweaters with neck trim detailing; and
- Fashion jeans with fringed faux suede belts.

For Him

Vintage Inspired-Guys should stock up on vintage athletic and prep school-inspired looks. This style is best captured when layered. Try a vintage T-shirt from the Route 66 brand at Kmart over a long-sleeved Henley or a striped polo over a long-sleeved T-shirt. Also consider:

- Graphic and ringer T-shirts;
- Cargo pants;
- Muscle-fit polo shirts; and
- Henley shirts.

From designer to discount, skateboard and streetwear styles

continue to inspire men. At Kmart, large logos and paisley patterns adorn Joe Boxer shirts, cargo and zip-pocket pants, contrasting color details and more. Must-have items include:

- Logo-front hooded sweatshirts;
- Graphic and ringer T-shirts;
- Cargo pants;
- Muscle-fit polo shirts; and
- Henley shirts.

From designer to discount, skateboard and streetwear styles

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Dorm fare

BY HEATHER MCPHERSON
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

ORLANDO, Fla. — Students packed for college campuses this no doubt packing clothes and school supplies. But what fuel for the body and brain? What about the many appliances that can transform a package of ramen noodles into something edible?

Let's start our lesson in campus life with the nonperishables. Our forbidden George Foreman grill is permissible microwaves, there are enough campus housing options to make a can of Easy Cheese.

Campus Web sites (search "university dorms") list a lot of culinary do's and don'ts for incoming students. With a few variations, the lists are similar.

The common theme on the "do's" lists are appliances with electric or open heat coils, such as found in toasters or toaster ovens. However, many campuses allow the use of these items in designated community kitchens. Open flames, such as those found on propane grills, camp stoves and no-nos, as well.

Students and parents may be surprised to learn that George Foreman grills are at the head of the list in nationwide sales, made the "don't bring" list at many campuses.

"George Foreman" appliances throw off so much steam," explains Joseph Paulick, assistant director of resident life at the University of Central Florida. "And — for the safety of the students — the fire systems are much more sensitive than ever. (The grills) could set off the fire alarms. Also, they collect a lot of grease and most people don't know how to properly dispose of it."

In the potential conflict with the university, says Paulick, and doesn't make the grade for cooking options.

Microwaves, coffee makers, hot plates and other appliances with heating elements, however, welcome at most campuses.

In general, most campuses require actual cooking be done in designated areas. But late-night cooks are in luck. The prevalence of modern zap cooking and ready-made meals has encouraged some types of higher learning to make allowances for dorm-room kitchens. Maximum wattages vary from 1,000 to 1,500, so check before you cook.

Cooking utensils, cutlery, plates and responsibility of the student are sturdy, lightweight and unbreakable. And don't forget the dishwashing liquid. Your home is a washer, your dorm room does

the kitchen lesson most students will need remedial help

king out the garbage," says Paulick with a laugh. "I'm seeing calls from parents coming about bugs and odors, and often linked to food in their trash cans."

The rented trailer is packed your college gear, but once to campus, a grocery shopping is your first challenge. Your grab-and-go society, access to healthy foods in

a dorm room may mean that your son or daughter grabs breakfast before their early-morning class," says registered dietitian Susan Mitchell.

"This way they're not so hungry later and are less likely to eat the door off the refrigerator and end up eating any fat-laden fast food in sight," says Mitchell, who is the author of "Eat to Stay Young" (Kensington, 2000) and co-author of "I'd Kill for a Cookie" (Plume, 1998).

"Go shopping with your child," says Joan Zeckler, Albertson's supermarket registered dietitian for Florida. "It will help get your child started in the right direction of good eating habits, and it's a great time to share tips on buying the best foods for their buck."

"Focus on great carbohydrates — whole grain bread, whole wheat cereal, oatmeal, whole wheat pasta and brown rice and fruits and veggies. Convenience foods work well too if you balance the day. Round out frozen meals and add a side salad with a low-fat dressing and a glass of skim or 1 percent milk."

Both experts say that the infamous "freshman 15," which refers to the pounds often gained the first year away from home meals, can be avoided if students follow a healthy meal plan.

Here are a few tips for college-bound students from Mitchell and Zeckler:

- Make sure to start the day with breakfast for increased energy and concentration and less grazing throughout the day.

- Set apart studying and snacking. Snack in the dorm kitchen, not in your room with books.

- Stay active — join a recreational team, walk around campus or go to the gym.

- Take the time to eat three to five small balanced meals. Try to avoid eating on the way to class.

- Watch portion sizes.

- For healthy snack-attack strategy, the dietitians recommend keeping a stash of pretzels, nuts, yogurt, cheese, packaged tuna in water with crackers, dried fruit, canned fruit in light syrup or in its own juice, granola bars, graham crackers, peanut butter, whole-grain crackers, SmartPop popcorn (94 percent fat free), oatmeal and whole grain cereals.

Beyond ramen noodles

Student unions and activity centers at the major state universities are starting to look more like the typical food court at your average shopping mall. Familiar fast food restaurants — what the dining services folk refer to as national brands — will let students remember what it was like back home when mom wouldn't cook. Burger King, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Subway, Freshens Smoothies, Chick-fil-a and Dominoes Pizza are just some of the recognizable names students may encounter.

In addition to the fast food outlets, the trend in campus dining is to get away from the cafeteria of old and move more to a made-to-order restaurant concept such as that used at the University of Central Florida. Called Real Food on Campus, the program features a centrally located dining area called the Marketplace with all-you-can-eat meals featuring meat carving stations, salad bars and freshly made sandwiches.

According to Ed Boswell, general manager of dining services at UCF, it's their attempt "to get rid of the mystery meats that come out of the back."

Dinner in minutes: Layered shrimp, mango and pasta salad just right for a warm, sultry summer evening

BY LINDA GASSENHEIMER
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Ripe, juicy mangoes are at the height of their season. They're a real treat. They provide a contrasting sweetness for this Layered Shrimp, Mango and Pasta Salad.

This quick salad supper can be made several hours ahead and refrigerated. Bring to room temperature before serving. If you buy shelled, cooked shrimp, the only cooking you will need to do to make this salad is to boil the pasta.

To cube mango, slice off each side of the fruit as close to the seed as possible. With skin side down, score the flesh in each half in a crisscross pattern, cutting but not through the skin. Bend the skin backward so the cubes pop up, then slice them off. Score and slice any fruit left on the pit.

Helpful hints

- Ripe peaches or plums can be substituted for fresh mango.
- Any type of short, cut pasta such as macaroni or penne can be used.

- To quickly chop chives, snip them with a scissors.

Countdown

- Place water for pasta on to boil.
- Prepare ingredients.
- Assemble salad.

Fred Tasker's wine suggestion

A slightly sweet white wine like a chenin blanc would complement the sweet, spicy sauce.

LAYERED SHRIMP, MANGO AND PASTA SALAD

1/4 pound fusilli (corkscrew pasta) (about 1 1/2 cups)

3 tablespoons mayonnaise

3 tablespoons water

2 tablespoons prepared horseradish

2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

12 ounces peeled, cooked shrimp

Ready-to-eat salad greens (4 cups)

1 red bell pepper, sliced (about 1 cup)

2 cups cubed ripe mango

1 medium tomato, cut into small cubes (about 1 inch)

4 tablespoons chopped fresh chives

Place a large pot of water on to boil. Cook pasta 10 minutes or according to package instructions.

Meanwhile, mix mayonnaise, water, horseradish and mustard in a

mixing bowl; transfer half to a salad bowl.

Drain pasta, rinse in cold water and drain thoroughly. Add to the salad bowl and toss to mix with dressing.

Add shrimp to mixing bowl and toss to mix with dressing.

Line two dinner plates with the lettuce. Spoon pasta on top. Place bell pepper slices over pasta and spoon shrimp and dressing on top. Arrange mango on top of the shrimp. Top with tomato and chives. Makes 2 servings.

Developed by Linda Gassenheimer for the Miami Herald.

Shopping list

To buy:

- 1 small package fusilli pasta
- 1 small jar prepared horseradish
- 1 package washed, ready-to-eat salad greens
- 1 red bell pepper
- 2 ripe medium mangoes
- 1 tomato
- 1 bunch chives
- 1 small jar Dijon mustard
- 12 ounces peeled, cooked shrimp.

Staples

- Mayonnaise

Linda Gassenheimer's latest book is "More Low-Carb Meals" in Minutes. Readers may send her e-



A SUPPER SALAD of layered shrimp, mango and pasta is an easy meal to fix.

RAUL RUBIERA/MIAMI HERALD

Discover tips and tricks to eliminate any kind of stain

MSW

You are hosting a party and your Aunt Edna spills red wine on your new carpet. To top it off, your nephew Billy gets gum on your living room sofa. Instead of heading to the housewares store, follow these tips to eliminate even the toughest of stains.

Gum: Place an ice cube on the gum to freeze it. Once it's hard, crack it off. On upholstery, press duct tape against the spot, and pull quickly. Repeat until gum is gone.

Red wine: Pour white wine on stain.

Ink: To remove ballpoint ink from clothing, saturate with hairspray (without any oil), blot and

launder. On rugs, saturate with hairspray, let dry and brush lightly with vinegar and water.

Rust: Sprinkle stain with salt, rub with lemon juice and place in sun. Keep moist with lemon juice until stain is gone. Rinse well.

Milk chocolate: Scrape away as much of the residue as possible. Blot area with 1/4 teaspoon no-bleach laundry detergent, 1 cup warm water and a couple drops ammonia.

Mud: Let mud dry, then lift up as much as possible with a spatula. Vacuum remaining dirt. If residue remains, sponge the site with a solution of 1 cup water and 1/2 teaspoon liquid soap.

Pet stains: Absorb wet spot with paper towel. Wash area with a combination of liquid soap and warm water. After washing, blot with a solution of 1/2 teaspoon liquid dishwashing soap and 1 cup lukewarm water. Repeat process.

Berry stains (on clothing): Hold the area tightly over a pot or heatproof bowl. Then, hold a kettle of boiling water at least 1/2 inches above the stain, and pour the hot water onto the stain.

Cosmetics on clothing: Dab a cotton swab into non-oily makeup remover to eliminate lipstick, foundation and eye shadow stains on fabrics like cotton or silk.

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METRO CREATIVE SERVICES

Start an exercise program that's right for you — don't put it off another day

MSW

You've been putting it off for ages. But there is no better time than now to start exercising. You don't have to be told the merits of exercise — that it reduces aging, and improves your health and well-being, not to mention your appearance.

When developing an exercise program, you likely have an array of questions: What should you do? How long should you exercise? Where should you exercise?

is sustained, rhythmic activity that improves how the heart and lungs function. You can walk, jog, bike ride or climb stairs. Or, you can try cross-country skiing, rowing or swimming. You can also enroll in group activities at a gym or local fitness center. Sign up for a spinning, yoga, martial arts, swimming, kickboxing or other fitness class.

Recent medical research has indicated the importance of weight training for building lean muscle as well as maintaining bone health. Muscles are responsible for more than 25 percent of your calorie usage. Increased muscle tissue increases the number of calories your body burns, even at rest.

You may overlook it, but it's important to stretch. It increases your fitness performance, reduces soreness, decreases risk of injury, improves balance and decreases risk of lower back pain.

Don't feel like you have to join a gym to get a good workout. You can always exercise at home. Hit the video store for a tape that you'll like; you may need to buy a mat, hand weights or jump rope. Or, you can invest in a treadmill, bike or other piece of exercise equipment.

If you're more of the outdoors type, head into nature, no matter what time of year. Hike during the fall. Sit when the temperatures are drop. Stroll among the flowers in the spring. Or dive into a pool when the temperatures are soaring come summer.

Any fitness plan should have aerobic exercise. Aerobic exercise

toned, you can increase heart rate and how hard you exercise.

One issue that plagues fitness freaks — boredom.

Here are some tips to help you stay motivated.

It's important to start slowly. If you do too much too soon, it will lead to soreness, fatigue or injuries.

- Find a partner. Whether someone, play tennis with or go rollerblading with someone else. You'll be less likely to bail out if someone else is there to show up.

- Make exercise a part of your life by scheduling it on your calendar or into your day.

- Don't look at the scale. Exercise is more about making self healthy than losing weight.

- Be sure to wear clothes that are appropriate for your exercise activity. If a sweatshirt and pair of sneakers inspire you even more, it's new workout gear.

- If you exercise alone, some tunes. Make a specific mix out mix or buy one. Upbeat songs are sure to get you in the mood.

- Chart your progress. A calendar, a handwritten journal or even a computer. That way you can monitor yourself periodically.

One issue that plagues many fitness freaks — boredom. That's why you want to stay motivated.

Before starting your program, set some specifics of what you want to get from your program whether it be short-term or long-term goals. Maybe you want to lose 10 pounds, train for a walkathon or try to better your health. Goals will keep you motivated and let you gauge your progress.

Any fitness plan should have aerobic exercise. Aerobic exercise

FIND A PARTNER. Walk with someone, play tennis with a friend or go rollerblading with some kids. You'll be less likely to bail on exercise if someone else is relying on you to show up.

Whatever you do, it's important to start slowly. If you do too much too soon, it will lead to soreness, fatigue or injuries. Gradually increase the duration and difficulty of your routine. As your body becomes more conditioned, you can increase heart rate and how hard you exercise.

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